5 dead in Tacurong City shootout; kidnap foiled

Story on PAGE A2

Not all aliases illegal

By Raul J. Palabrica

UNDER the Anti-Money Laundering Act, bank accounts cannot be opened under fictitious or anonymous names. A violation of this prohibition would subject the depositor and the bank official who allowed the transaction to criminal liability.

The ban is aimed at preventing criminal elements from using the banking system to launder (or clean) money ac-

NOT/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, September 2, 2003 ★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 266 P15

WHAT'S INSIDE

- US tough guy actor Charles Bronson, 81
  WORLD /A11
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- Palace stops probe of Reyes
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Mike's brother claims he is Jose Pidal

By Christian V. Esguerra

BUSINESSMAN Ignacio Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother-in-law, came out into the open yesterday to claim ownership of two Jose Pidal accounts.

"I acknowledge that I am the Jose Pidal referred to in the privileged speech of (Sen. Panfilo) Lacson," Arroyo, 52, said in a press conference.

The younger brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo made the admission a few hours before Lacson delivered another privileged speech, this time identifying more alleged Jose Pidal accounts allegedly owned by the President's husband.

Saying he wanted to put an end to Lacson's "charade," the younger Arroyo backed his claim that he was indeed Jose Pidal by repeatedly signing this

MIKE'S/ A18



AT A PRESS conference, Ignacio T. Arroyo dares Sen. Panfilo Lacson to file case against him in connection with the Jose Pidal accounts and his use of an alias.

JOAN BONDOC

Ignacio A: No favors from GMA

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila

BACOLOD CITY—A low-key businessman, he used to pick up Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from the airport during her visits to Negros Occidental, before his sister-in-law became the President.

Now Ignacio Tuason Arroyo, younger brother of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, has been thrown into the limelight following his admission that he is, in fact, the mysterious Jose Pidal.

The local media started reporting about him late last year when he expressed interest in running for fifth district congressman. Incumbent Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada ap-

IGNACIO A/ A18

Solons find claim hard to believe

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Carlito Pablo

SEN. Panfilo Lacson, who has accused Jose Miguel Arroyo of laundering campaign funds through his alleged Jose Pidal accounts, expressed disbelief over the claim of the First Gentleman's younger brother that it was in fact he who owned the Pidal accounts.

"Who is Ignacio C. Arroyo? He (had claimed) ownership of two buildings in downtown San Francisco (on behalf of the First Couple before). Who is he?" asked Lacson. "*Nakakapagtaka* (It's a puzzle)."

In an interview before he read his privilege speech, Lacson cast doubt on the veracity of Ignacio's claim. "Why only now? No one believes Ignacio Arroyo. It's not him. Jose Miguel Arroyo is the real Jose Pidal," he emphasized.

In his speech, Lacson questioned the young Arroyo's financial capability, saying the businessman paid only between P8,500 and P13,500 in income tax per year between 1996 and 1999.

"Are these the income tax payments of an extremely wealthy individual?" Lacson asked.

He challenged Ignacio to issue "a special power of attorney of all his accounts after Aug. 2001" to prove that the accounts had been closed at the time.

Ignacio Arroyo's claim was met with skepticism by both parties in the Senate.

SOLONS/ A17

Lacson bares more Jose Pidal accounts

'Alam ba ni Mrs. ito(h)?' senator asks Mike A

By Christine O. Avendaño

ASKING repeatedly whether President Macapagal-Arroyo knew about them, Sen. Panfilo Lacson disclosed yesterday seven bank accounts allegedly owned by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and his dummies, bringing to 12 the bank accounts where Arroyo allegedly hid at least P260 million.

"*Mr. Jose Pidal, alam ba ni Mrs. itoh* [does (the President) know about it]?" Lacson asked 21 times in his second privileged speech in two weeks against the First Gentleman, 18 of which referred to the financial transactions.

The letter h in *itoh* was barely visible, an apparent reference to Victoria Toh, Arroyo's personal accountant, whom the Lacson camp claims is the mistress of the President's husband.

Lacson also disclosed that a total of P18.55 million was remitted to two Jose Pidal accounts from abroad and that Arroyo owned a six-hectare property in Quezon City, which the First Couple did not declare in their statements of assets and liabilities.

For the first time, the opposition senator linked Ms Macapagal to the alleged hidden wealth of her husband when he said that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) deposited on Feb. 28 a P1.35-million "jackpot" in the bank account of Jose Pidal at the Bank of the Philippine Islands in Makati.

"Ah, Mr. Jose Pidal, we think the Mrs. knows about this," Lacson said. "PCSO, as everyone in the hall knows, is directly under the Office of the President."

Lacson said Ms Macapagal would know about PCSO donations because any PCSO disbursement exceeding P100,000 needed clearance from the President.

The senator questioned the decision of the PCSO, which he noted was put up by law for charitable purposes, to issue Landbank check No. 061283 to the "account of a ficti-

LACSON/ A17

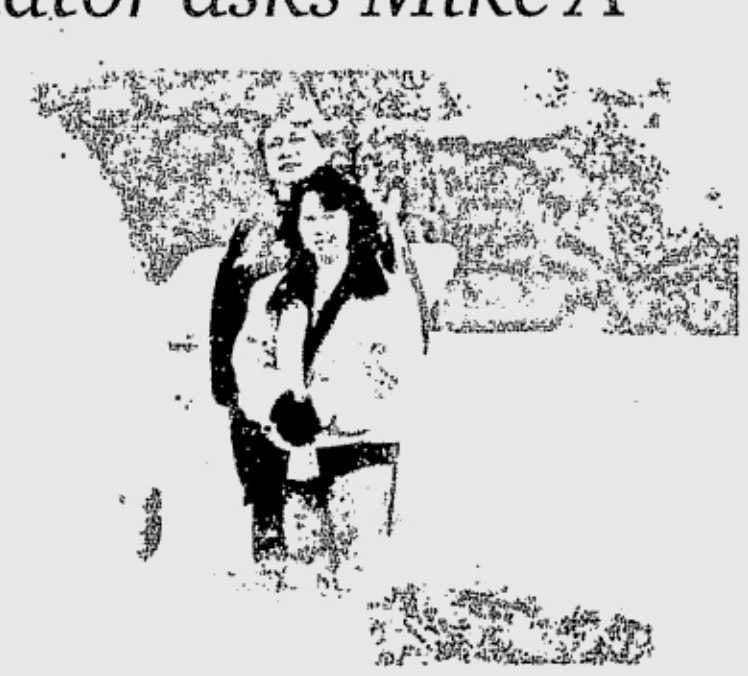


PHOTO furnished by the office of Sen. Panfilo Lacson shows Mike Arroyo with his secretary cum accountant Victoria Toh in San Francisco.



EDWIN BACASMAS

DISBELIEF seems to be the expression on President Macapagal's face in San Simon, Pampanga.

Iggy offers special power of attorney to Senate

By Alcuin Papa
and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

IGNACIO "Iggy" Arroyo, younger brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, accepted last night the challenge of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson for him to issue a special power of attorney so that any money from the "Jose Pidal" accounts could be withdrawn and given to Senate employees.

"I am hereby issuing a special power of attorney in favor of the Senate President (Franklin Drilon) so that he may withdraw any funds contained in the accounts he has enumerated, and donate this to the employees of the Senate," Ignacio told reporters at the LTA Building in Makati.

"But should no balance be discovered in any of these accounts, we challenge Senator Lacson to donate the amount of P260 million which he claims is in the accounts," Ignacio said.

He told reporters that he and his lawyer Antonio Zulueta were preparing the document.

Ignacio explained that he issued the SPA in favor of the Senate President "*at baka yumaman pa siya* (Lacson)."

He said that he earlier told his brother that he was the owner of the account. "He (Mike) knew I had the account. He doesn't meddle in my business."

Jesus I. Santos, lawyer of the First Gentleman, said the alleged Jose Pidal bank accounts enumerated by Lacson in his privileged speech had nothing to do with Arroyo.

Santos said the new Pidal accounts

IGGY/ A17

GMA vows to step up reforms started by Reyes

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would use her stint as defense secretary to strengthen the military chain of command, ensure the firm dominance of civilian authority and mop up corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We aim to maintain the firm hold of civilian authority over the military devoid of old boys' networks and special relationships," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

She temporarily took over the defense portfolio on Friday after accepting the resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, the second government casualty of the failed military mutiny in Makati City last month. Reyes said he hoped his action would give the President a free hand in dealing with alleged coup plotters.

Disgruntled junior officers who led the July 27 mutiny had demanded the resignation of Ms Macapagal, Reyes, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., and Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, head of the Intelligence Service of AFP.

Corpus has resigned as Isafp chief, but Ebdane has yet to quit his post despite the embarrassing escape of Indonesian terror-

GMA/ A18



Resignation leaves Reyes homeless too

By TJ Burgonio

BLESSED are the homeless of the land, because to their ranks may soon be added, if only momentarily, a former Cabinet member.

Newly resigned Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes is saying he and his family will have nowhere to live if they are asked to move out of his official Camp Aguinaldo quarters in Quezon City today.

RESIGNATION/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

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SecondFRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have stormy weather with rough to very rough seas. Rest of Northern Luzon will experience rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/02/03

Metro Manila	Occasional Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Occasional Rains
Baguio	Occasional Rains	Roxas	Occasional Rains
Tuguegarao	Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Occasional Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Occasional Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Occasional Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Catholic bishops call for end to all political bickering

INFLUENTIAL Church bishops yesterday called for an end to all political bickering, saying that these were demoralizing the Filipinos and indicated a "fatal loss of perspective" among political leaders.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the accusations and counter-accusations showed that politicians are "out to destroy one another and in the process bring down the entire Filipino family."

They said this must all stop as "we are all suffering politically and economically."

"Our current situation calls for harmony and unity, for total commitment to economic recovery and political renewal," Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, the CBCP president, said in a statement yesterday.

Still, he urged the President and other leaders "to respond positively and effectively to the valid issues regarding graft and corruption" that have been brought to public attention.

Quevedo said he hoped that the planned political summit next week would "contribute significantly" to national unification and economic recovery.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, who will succeed Quevedo as CBCP president in December, has called on the business community, the labor sector, church and civic groups, and even academics to participate in the summit and ensure that what transpires will "stay within the bounds of the Constitution."

Capalla also urged political parties to set aside their "self-serving interest" and learn the value of forgiveness and reconciliation.

But he downplayed any role for the Catholic clergy, saying that "since this is a political activity, the Church teaches and urges the lay faithful, not the ordained, to take an active part because it is their mission." *Blanche S. Rivera*

5 dead in South kidnap shootout; abduction foiled

Trader wounded; 2 cops killed

By Edwin O. Fernandez, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TACURONG CITY—Heavily armed men believed to be members of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang struck anew yesterday and killed five people, including two policemen, in a foiled attempt to abduct a local businessman.

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu said at least 10 men armed with assault rifles barged into a rice mill in Barangay New Carmen here, shooting to death four people and wounding five others, among them the owner Roberto Ang.

"They wanted Roberto Ang," Mangudadatu said. The businessman had been given police security, the governor said, after receiving threats from suspected extortionists and kidnappers.

In a comandeered jeep, the armed men had gained entry by posing as farmer-customers, said Tacurong police chief Raul Supiter. They opened fire on the security guards with rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles hidden in their vehicle.

Police identified those killed as SPO3 Percy Antonino, security guard Jose Pajarillo, driver Dominador Lumugda, and bystander Pepito Baylon. Wounded were Ang and his relatives identified as Alex Chua, Ansuan Go, Nerrisa Pacadao and Peter Hong.

Rocket fired

The men failed to take Ang, who was critically wounded along with two associates. They fired a rocket round into the building as they fled, Supiter said.

Senior Supt. Boniflo Dacoco, Sultan Kudarat police chief, said the suspects then escaped toward Lambayong town, also in Sultan Kudarat.

They shot their way through a checkpoint, killing a second policeman identified as SPO1 Hadji Bansil and wounding three other officers.

The gang members proceeded toward nearby Maguindanao province, eluding a police pursuit team. They abandoned their vehicle near the town of Sultan sa Barongis, where Mangudadatu said they were joined by 20 more heavily armed men.

Police believe the reinforcement consisted of members of the separatist Muslim guerrilla group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The enlarged group fled to nearby Maguindanao province.

Brig. Gen. Agustin Demaala, 301st brigade chief, has sent Army troops backed by armored personnel carriers to Sultan sa Barongis where the suspects are still believed to be hiding. The elite Police Mobile Group has also been dispatched to the area.

"The incident is a clear indication that the MILF is coddling this criminal group," Supiter said, referring to the Pentagon.

MILF pledge

The MILF last month agreed to hold formal peace talks with the Philippine government in Malaysia. As part of confidence-building measures, the 12,500-member group renounced support to terrorist groups and pledged not to shelter criminal gangs, specifically the Pentagon, which has kidnapped businessmen as well as foreigners visiting Mindanao in the past.

MILF spokespersons were unavailable for comment.

Meanwhile, unknown gunmen abducted three local residents of Surigao City two weeks ago, a police report said.

The victims, two males and a female, were seized on Aug. 22 and taken to a mountainous area near the town of Jabongga, the report said.

The woman was freed unharmed five days later but the two men with her are still missing. The motive for the kidnapping was unknown. *With reports from AP and Agence France-Presse*



NEW TOLLWAY

President Macapagal and business tycoon Oscar Lopez view a new segment of the North Luzon highway project in San Simon, Pampanga, from the back of a pickup truck. The toll road reportedly cuts travel time to Manila and Clark by 30 minutes.

EDWIN BACASMAS

De Venecia to force Charter change issue in planned political summit

By Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia will force the issue of Charter change into the agenda of the planned summit bringing together all the opposing political forces in the country.

De Venecia told reporters that he and Sen. Edgardo Angara would also use the summit as a platform to push for the amendment of the Constitution to change the current bicameral into a unitary or parliamentary system.

"It's the last and final solution to end all political bickering," said De Venecia. "We don't need band-aid solutions."

De Venecia said he and Angara would meet today to thresh out the agenda of the summit.

But De Venecia's majority allies in the House have proposed that instead of a political summit, Congress should convene into a joint session to effect Charter change.

Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, who heads the Nationalist People's Coalition, said a summit would be a mere talking forum accomplishing little to resolve the country's problems.

""Let's convene the constituent assembly now so that the root causes of our problems can be genuinely addressed," said Teodoro.

He said a mere summit can only address the "symptoms" manifested by the "spate of mudslinging and animosity" between the administration and opposition camps.

Teodoro's call immediately got the support of the other parties in the majority coalition: the ruling Lakas-CMD, the Liberal Party and the Nationalista Party.

Opposition Rep. Abraham Mitra warned that he sensed a "Cha-cha twist" in the summit idea aimed at resurrecting the campaign to amend the charter.

"At the summit finale, we will see all the participants dancing the Cha-cha in a chorus line . . . there will be a strong push for con-ass [the constituent assembly idea]," he said.

The House of Representatives has already passed a resolution calling for Congress to convene itself into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

The Senate has yet to tackle an Angara-sponsored committee report calling for Charter change through a constitutional convention.

The Speaker stressed that the political summit should be a "revolutionary, constructive" vehicle for social change.

"People are tired of too much adversarial (talk)," he said, adding the best solution would be a change in the form of government.

He recalled that a shift to a parliamentary system was the consensus during last year's political summit.

However, the initiative was stalled in the Senate.

In a separate interview, Angara said "political summit" was a much-abused phrase.

GMA doesn't want 2004 plans in summit agenda

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo may just decline to participate in the planned political summit next week if she is forced to make a categorical statement on what her political plans are for 2004.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing the President's decision to run or abstain in next year's presidential derby was "an issue not related to the political summit."

Bunye did not elaborate on why the President was reluctant to discuss what should be a non-issue in view of her December 30 declaration that she would not seek a full term in 2004.

Opposition leaders are reportedly looking to the political summit to finally end persistent speculation that the President would change her mind and run.

Last week, they called on the President to either step down or call for a snap election.

Summit

A statement released by the Palace early yesterday quoted the President as stating the issues that she wanted the summit to tackle—poverty, jobs, health, drugs, terrorism and corruption.

"To be meaningful, the summit must not involve any deliberations on or discussions of partisan political issues," the President said.

Remark

The remark, reported on early morning radio, drew a howl of protest from opposition lawmakers forcing Malacañang to recall the statement just before noon yesterday.

In the same statement, the President said both the administration and opposition should be well-represented in the summit that should unify and galvanize the nation.

She said it was necessary to include participants who were non-partisan.

The President said she wanted the summit to emphasize "reconciliation with justice," and that political consensus should not be affected by issues pending in the courts.

Substantive

Bunye said the political summit should goad all political camps "to concentrate on substantive, basic issues that would move our country forward instead of being distracted by many side issues."

He said Malacañang officials led by legislative liaison officer Gabby Claudio would be meeting with Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia on Wednesday to discuss the agenda of the summit.

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SINGAPORE	165	170	DUBAI	265	510
BANGKOK	158	170	KUWAIT	310	690
MACAU	148	130	DHARAN	360	710
TOKYO	200	375	JEDDAH	365	705
OSAKA	220	388	ABU DHABI	280	570
FUKUOKA	200	425	BAHRAIN	295	610
NAGOYA	200	378	LOS ANGELES	330	670
TAIPEI	140	285	SAN FRANCISCO	330	670
SAIGON	225	230	NEW YORK	400	770
SEOUL	175	366	GUAM	295	370
KUALA	198	290	VANCOUVER	330	670
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Bali bomber says he provided explosives for attack on RP envoy

JAKARTA, Indonesia—The Muslim radical who helped carry out last year's Bali nightclub attacks told a court Monday that he also obtained the explosives used in the deadly attack on the Philippine ambassador's residence in Jakarta in 2000.

"I only provided the chemicals. I didn't know what they were to be used for," said Amrozi Nurhasyim, who has been sentenced to death for similarly buying explosives in the Bali blasts.

Police say both bombings were carried out by Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida linked regional terror group. The Oct. 12 Bali blast killed 202 people while the Aug. 1, 2000 attack in central Jakarta killed two passers-by and seriously injured the envoy, Leonidas Caday.

Police said Caday was targeted by Jemaah Islamiyah to avenge an assault that ousted the Moro Islamic Liberation from their camp on the Philippine's southern island of Mindanao in 1999.

The alleged spiritual head of Jemaah Islamiyah, Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, is standing trial in Jakarta on charges of involvement in a number of church bombings and a plan to assassinate President Megawati Sukarnoputri. Bashir, whose verdict is due to be announced Tuesday, faces a possible 15 years in jail if found guilty.

On Monday, Amrozi testified at the trial of Abdul Jabar, 33, who is accused of preparing the explosives for the Jakarta blast and detonating the device.

Amrozi—who is appealing the Bali death sentence—said he watched television news report of the Jakarta bombing.



AMROZI: I only provided the chemicals

"I had a feeling that (my) chemicals had been used," he said.

Two other top Indonesian militants, Fathur Roman al-Ghozi and Riduan Isamuddin, also known as Hambali, have been implicated in the attack on the ambassador.

Al-Ghozi, who recently escaped from a Manila prison, has told authorities there that he took part in that bombing. Hambali is in US custody for his links to the Sept. 11 attacks after being arrested in Thailand earlier this month.

Jabar surrendered to the police on Jan. 23 in Lombok island, after being persuaded to do so by his family, police said. *AP*

Indon security chief vows help in hunt for Al-Ghozi

SECURITY Minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono yesterday pledged Indonesia's help in the manhunt for convicted Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, who escaped from a Camp Crame jail, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said.

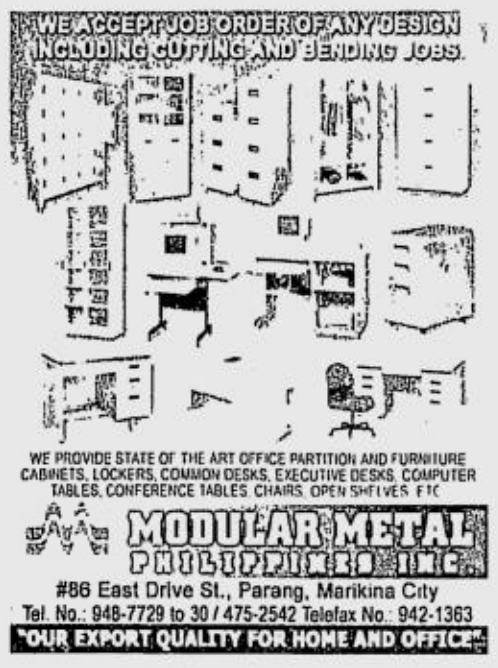
Yudhoyono called on President Macapagal-Arroyo in Manila and pledged Jakarta's "assistance and cooperation in the manhunt for Al-Ghozi," Golez said in a statement.

"Yudhoyono said that this will be in the form of intelligence sharing and manhunt and arrest should Al-Ghozi manage to escape to Indonesia," Golez said, stressing that both governments "believe that Al-Ghozi is still in the Philippines." Al-Ghozi and two Filipino Abu Sayyaf guerrillas escaped from a police prison in Manila on July 14.

He had been serving a 17-year prison term for procuring more than a ton of explosives, which Al-Ghozi subsequently confessed was to have been used in a bombing campaign in Singapore.

The JI is waging a region-wide bombing campaign in support of a bid to set up an Islamic superstate in Southeast Asia. Security officials say it has links to the al-Qaida network that has been blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. *AFP*



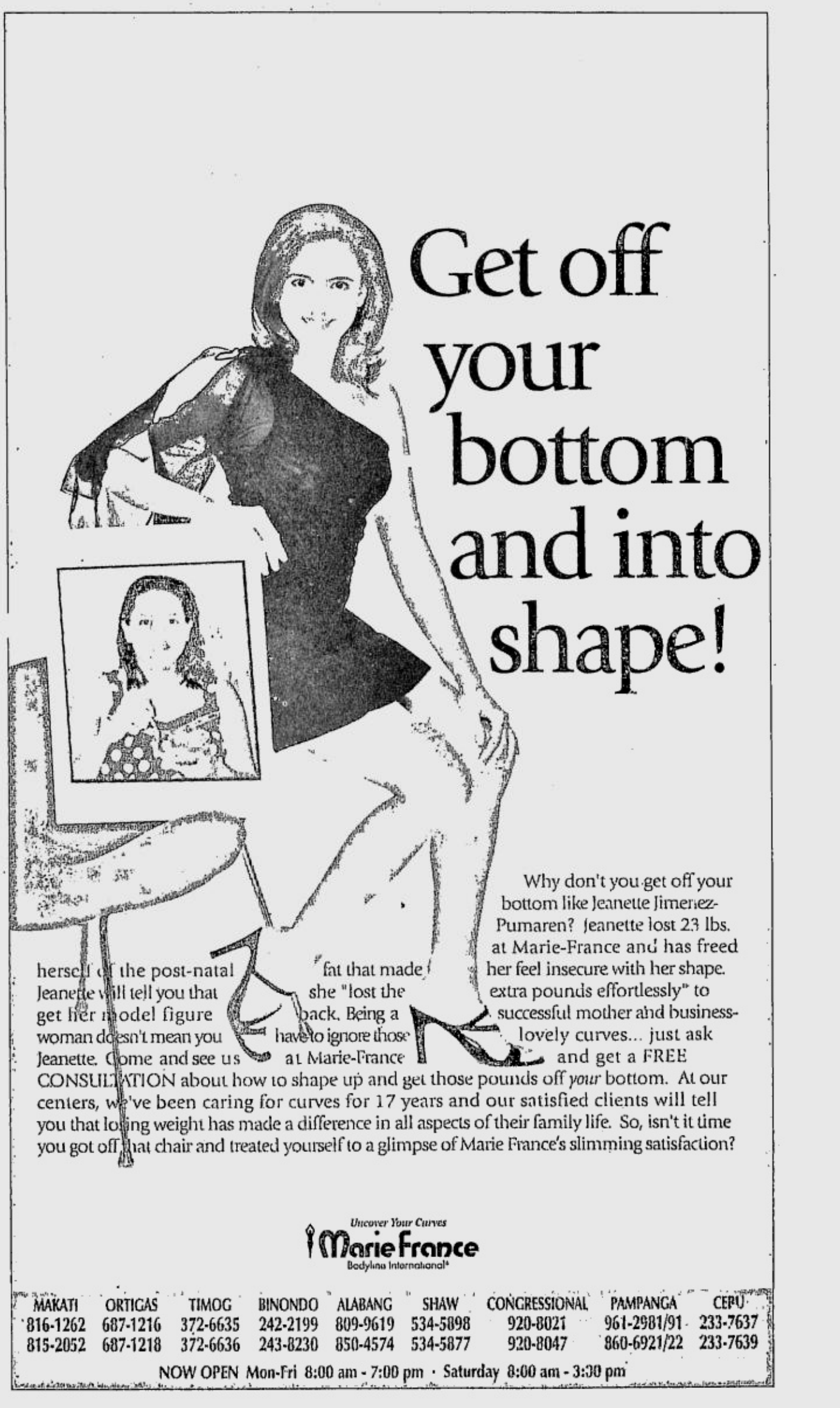












Single Asian parliament pushed in Manila meeting

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By Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

PARLIAMENTARIANS across Asia yesterday proposed the formation of a single Asian parliament based on the model of the already established European, Latin American and African parliaments to ensure peace, security and economic stability in the region.

"An assembly of Asia's parliamentarians—from Tokyo to Istanbul—can have the same long-term catalytic effect on the Asian community as the formation of the 45-nation parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe in 1949 had on the European Union," said Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who is also incoming president of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP).

De Venecia who assumed the AAPP presidency yesterday at the opening of the four-day 4th AAPP general assembly said such a vision of an Asia without dividing lines is no longer just a dream.

"Open regionalism is a practical way to step-by-step economic and eventually, political integration," he said.

In his speech, De Venecia stressed that a single parliament—or legislative body—would protect Asian nations economically and politically.

"Indeed, I would suggest that the AAPP itself should begin to inquire into the feasibility of its eventual evolution into an Asian Parliamentary Assembly—on the model of the European, Latin American and African Parliaments already established," De Venecia said.

During its formative stage, however, the parliament should serve as an advisory body to all Asian parliaments, said De Venecia.

Wu Bangguo, chair of China's National People's Congress and outgoing AAPP president, has given his support in principle for a feasibility study on the group's eventual evolution into an Asian parliamentary assembly, officials said.

But Kobasak Chutikul, the deputy leader of Thailand's Chart Thai party, said an Asian parliament based on the European model could not be achieved in the foreseeable future.

"This is because of the enormous expanse of Asia and the diversity and number of the countries involved," he said.

De Venecia agrees. "I recall France's Robert Schuman declaring that Europe will not be built in a day, nor as part of an overall design. It will be built through the practical achievements that first create a sense of common purpose."

According to De Venecia, a united Asia will be composed of the 10 member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including the Philippines, and China, Japan and South Korea.

"Asean and its free trade area are uniting the 10 Southeast Asian nations," he said. "And an East Asian economic grouping of the Asean 10 plus the three Northeast Asian powers, China, Japan and South Korea, promises to be less than 10 years away."

De Venecia also proposed the creation of an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund which would create "a new Asian middle class out of the entrepreneurial poor in Asia's rural and urban slums." *With AFP report*

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 2, 2003
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11
Gospel: Lk 4:31-37

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and began teaching the people at the sabbath meetings. They were astonished at the way he taught them, for his word was spoken with authority.

In the synagogue, there was a man possessed by an evil spirit who shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I recognize you: you are the Holy One of God." Then Jesus said to him sharply, "Be silent and leave this man!" The evil spirit then threw the man down in front of them, and came out of him without doing him harm.

Amazement seized all these people and they said to one another, "What does this mean? He commands the evil spirits with authority and power. He orders, and you see how they come out!" And news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding area.

Commentary

"His word was with authority." Someone said that the world is already bored with empty words and meaningless slogans, what the world needs now are powerful deeds accompanied with words of authority. Jesus spoke with authority but unlike the prophets of old, Jesus spoke in his own name: "I solemnly assure you ..." Jesus spoke with authority because powerful deeds confirm the truthfulness of his teachings. The words of Jesus like the word of Yahweh are powerful. It can make Peter and his companions leave everything at the bidding of Jesus. It can make Zaccheus declare restitution for those he has defrauded and to share his wealth with the poor. What about our words? Does it carry power and authority?

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GMA pledges more funds to develop Clark int'l airport

CLARK, Pampanga —President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday pledged to funnel funds to develop the Clark economic zone airport to ease congestion at the Manila international airport.

South Korean carrier Aseana Airlines is to start its Clark service on Sept. 28, while the government will also arrange for commercial jets ferrying home overseas workers from the Middle East to land at Clark rather than at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, she said during a visit here.

Arroyo said the Clark Development Corp., which is managing the sprawling former US air base, has signed an agreement with the Manila Airport Authority to develop and operate the Clark airport.

The airport is located about 80 km north of Manila and features two 3.2-km runways, but Ms Macapagal acknowledged that air traffic was thin because the passenger terminal was not yet up to international standards.

She said part of the income of the Naia would be allotted to the development of Clark airport, which the government has named Diosdado Macapagal Airport after the president's late father.

"They will spend for infrastructure development like apron construction. They will spend for the widening of the taxiway, they will spend for the procurement of ramps, they will spend for the procurement of additional X-ray machines to handle bigger luggage," she said in a speech.

"Because what airline will come here if their passengers will wait for a manual inspection of their luggage? We have to make this terminal worldclass in services as well."

A private German-Filipino consortium is building a bigger passenger terminal at Manila airport, but the concession is tied up in legal dispute, delaying its opening scheduled for last year. *AFP*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOOK ONE—AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Conspiracy—Direct proof of a previous agreement to commit a crime is not indispensable in conspiracy. It may be deduced from the mode and manner by which the offense was perpetrated, or inferred from the acts of the accused themselves, when such point to a joint purpose and design, concerted action and community of interest. From the time accused-appellant and his companions entered the hospital and announced a holdup up to the time they fled, in the course of which security guard Gomez was shot, there can be no other conclusion than that they hatched a criminal scheme, synchronized their acts for unity in its execution, and aided each other for its consummation. As correctly pointed out by the trial court, the united, concerted and coordinated contemporaneous acts of accused-appellant and his companions in marauding the hospital, neutralizing its security guards and robbing it of P1,010,274.90 unerringly indicate a well-planned robbery operation and a conspiracy among them. As conspiracy has been established, all the conspirators are liable as coprincipals regardless of the manner and extent of their participation since, in conspiracy, the act of one is the act of all. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Carpio-Morales, People v. Napalit, G.R. Nos. 142919 and 143876, February 4, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT

The Flyover Project (in Baliwag, Bulacan), spearheaded by the DPWH-Region III Director Federico Gaspar in 2000, has been conceptualized allegedly intended to ease vehicular traffic condition from Manila to the Northern part of Luzon. While it was approved, the same was shelved when anomalies in the project were exposed in trimedia in year 2000. Director Gaspar was suspended. After deliberations, the DPWH and the Sangguniang Bayan of Baliwag approved a more appropriate solution, i.e., to widen the road in lieu of the flyover project. The DPWH spent considerable amount from the funds of the flyover project in the road widening project. Traffic has significantly improved.

For unknown reason and without notice, the road widening project was suddenly terminated early this year, and the flyover project was revived. Was it a coincidence that at about this time, Secretary Florante Soriquez was appointed Officer-in-charge of the DPWH, and Director Gaspar was reinstated as Regional Director of Cordillera?

In the absence of the Baliwag Sangguniang Bayan resolution approving this revived flyover project, and without a valid Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), no less than Secretary Soriquez, published an invitation to bid for the said project, without indicating the mandatory date of opening of bids. Clearly, this violates the principles of public bidding, transparency and equity enunciated by EO 40, series of 2001, and provisions of the Local Government Code. By the way, last June 9, 2003, the project was bidded.

The DPWH claims this project is a long term solution to congested vehicular traffic in Baliwag. However, was it blind not to see that the same number of vehicles originating from North Expressway cause traffic congestion to every area that they pass through, including Sta. Rita, Plaridel, Pulilan. Why then single out Baliwag as culprit of the so-called traffic congestion?

This is not to mention the existence of another DPWH infrastructure project, i.e., "Plaridel By Pass Road", which extends from North Expressway until San Rafael, Bulacan, by-passing all the above congested areas, including Baliwag. This project is underway with an approved ECC issued on November 19, 2002. The flyover project now therefore becomes irrelevant and unnecessary.

Madam President, last August 23, 2003, despite the announcement in print and in banners, we laud the move of your Honor not to grace the site preparation; thus, the groundbreaking did not ensue. We have been humbled by your thorough knowledge of our opposition and predicament. You have been quoted by the Philippine Daily Inquirer that you "can order that the funds be transferred to other areas if there are people who do not want this project here". We take this opportunity to manifest our objection to the flyover project.

Your administration aims to generate sustaining economy and employment in every town and city of the country. The flyover project will work to the disadvantage of the growing business and trade in Baliwag. At present, the anticipated flyover project has already caused apprehensions among the members of Baliwag Business Sector, canceling any business development and plans, not only in the area where the flyover will be constructed but everywhere in town.

Madam President, this flyover project has been railroaded from the very beginning to meet certain interests, disregarding rules and propriety. To eliminate the source that goes against your mandate against graft and corruption, we strongly appeal for your categorical declaration, ie., to eliminate the flyover project, once and for all, from the infrastructure projects of DPWH-Region III. Likewise, we seek for your support of the following:

1) Completion of the road widening project;
2) Fast-track the Plaridel By-Pass Road Project, the true long term solution.

Thank you very much for your attention.

CONCERNED CITIZENS AND BUSINESS SECTOR OF BALIWAG, BULACAN

ADVT

Earthquake recorded off Zambales

AN EARTHQUAKE with a magnitude of 4.7 struck the western coast of Luzon but there were no reports of injuries or damage, officials said yesterday.

The earthquake was centered in the South China Sea about 180 km southwest of Manila, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The undersea temblor occurred at 8:43 p.m. on Sunday and was set off by movement in the Manila Trench, an underground area off the western coast of the northern Philippines where continental plates meet, said Rommel Grutas of Phivolcs.

The Hong Kong Observatory reported a magnitude of 5.3 for the same earthquake. Grutas said the different measurements occurred because of different machines and formula used in detecting and measuring the earthquake's strength.

The Philippines is located along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where earthquakes and volcanic activity are common.

A magnitude 7.7 earthquake in 1990 killed nearly 2,000 people on the main island of Luzon. *AP*

Ebdane refuses to heed calls to quit PNP

By Christian V. Esguerra

PHILIPPINE National Police Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday refused to follow the lead of former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and slammed calls for his resignation.

Ebdane said he would step down only if President Macapagal-Arroyo told him to do so or if members of the PNP themselves demanded his ouster.

"I'll go if I'm told [by the President] to go," he told reporters in a media forum yesterday.

"But I won't resign just because [the mutineers] or the [political] opposition told me to resign," he said.

Unlike Reyes, Ebdane said his resignation was not initially included in the list of demands by the junior military officers behind the failed power grab on July 27.

He said the mutineers called for his ouster only after they met with "self-styled negotiators" Senators Gregorio Honasan, Vicente Sotto and Rodolfo Biazon at the Oakwood Premier in Makati on the day of the rebellion.

The PNP chief said the calls for him to resign could also be part of the mutineers' plan to attack Camp Crame.

"Their belief is that when the national leadership of the PNP is destroyed, it would be easy to destroy the regional commands," he said.

Ebdane said he would just ignore this latest controversy and concentrate instead on recapturing fugitive Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi who escaped under highly suspicious circumstances from Camp Crame last July 14.

Al-Ghozi's escape was the reason why the calls for Ebdane's sacking were made.

"I have a job to perform, I was given the specific order to account for Al-Ghozi," he said.

Malacañang stops probe of Reyes

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission will not pursue the administrative complaint against former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who resigned last Friday.

"We will let it go because he's now a private citizen," PAGC Chair Dario Rama told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

Rama previously decided to investigate Reyes following reports that he was building a P10-million house in Fort Bonifacio. Reyes explained that he and his sons had taken out a loan to finance the construction.

The commission will soon submit a report to President Macapagal-Arroyo saying the lifestyle check on Reyes will be discontinued, "since he is no longer a government employee," according to Rama.

PAGC Commissioner Cesar Buenaflor supported this move and clarified that the investigation had actually not started because "technically, there is no case yet."

He said the lifestyle audit was merely a "preliminary stage" in the evaluation of the case, prior to the filing of a formal administrative complaint. *Armand C. Nocum*

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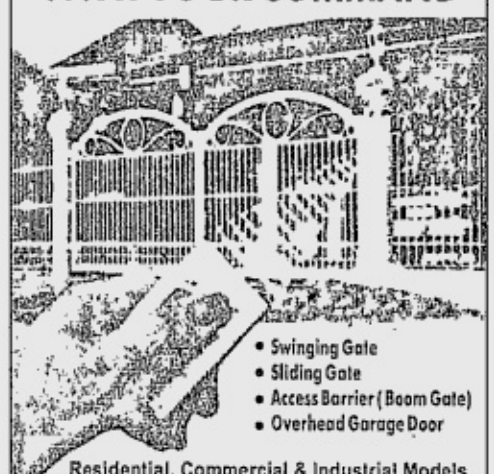
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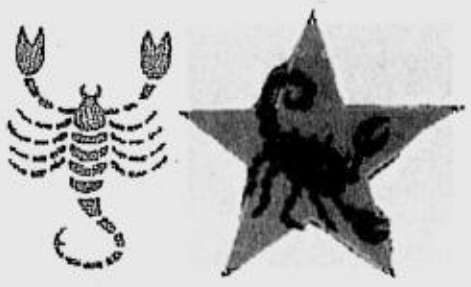
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Mga Biktima ng Pagpaslang

Sino ang Susunod?



1993
Alfredo de Leon

Alfredo de Leon, leader of the Red Scorpion Gang, was killed on March 17, 1993 in a reported shoot-out with a composite group of the now defunct Presidential Anti Crime Commission (PACC) and Criminal Investigation Service Command agents in Calumpit, Bulacan. A post-mortem report by the PNP Crime Laboratory showed that aside from bullet wounds all over his body, de Leon bore ligature marks on both wrists, a sign that his hands could have been tied when he was shot and killed. His family also claimed that his personal belongings including jewelries and a big sum of money were stolen.



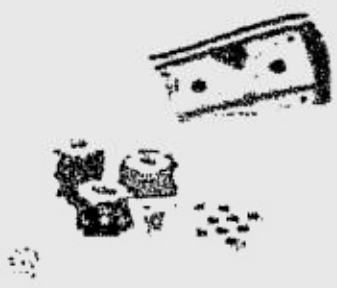
1995
Kuratong Baleleng Gang Members

On May 18, 1995, eleven members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang were killed in a reported shoot-out with the Anti-Bank Robbery and Intelligence Task Group (ABRITG), a composite police team that included PACC agents at the flyover in Commonwealth Avenue, Q.C.. The Senate and NBI investigations pointed to summary execution or rub-out. Prior to the killing, witnesses said that the victims have been arrested and brought to Camp Crame. The victims were tied or handcuffed when they were killed. Four armalite rifles were planted amongst them to make it appear that a fire fight ensued. The nature of the gunshot wounds of the fatalities showed they were shot at close range.



1995
Wilson Soronda and Gemma Soronda

Wilson Soronda, leader of the Kuratong Baleleng Group was killed in a questionable follow-up operation in the early morning of May 19, 1995. He was supposed to have been arrested in May 18, 1995 by PACC operatives at his residence at #14 Palm St., Superville Parañaque, Metro Manila. Her sister, Gemma Soronda, who was arrested before the Kuratong Baleleng rub-out, was later found also murdered in a grassy lot in Biñan, Laguna. Both had knowledge of the huge amounts of money the Kuratong Baleleng Gang had accumulated and where they were stashed. Included in the still unaccounted loot were more than two million dollars.



1998
Edgardo Bentain

Edgardo Bentain was the PAGCOR casino employee who reportedly leaked a videotape of then Vice Pres. Joseph Estrada playing a high stakes card game at the Casino Filipino. A senatorial candidate in the 1998 elections made a public expose stating that Bentain was the one who gave him the video. His family reported that Bentain disappeared sometime in January 1998. Nothing has been heard of him since then.



2000
Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito

Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito were kidnapped by armed men sometime during the impeachment trial of then Pres. Estrada on Nov. 24, 2000. They were later found dead on April 11, 2001 apparently murdered. Tagged as suspects were former PAOCTF agents including Senior Superintendent Teofilo Viña and Superintendent Glenn Dumlao, along with five civilians.



2002
PSupt. John Campos

Police Superintendent John Campos was gunned down to death on December 15, 2002. Campos, a former Narcotics agent and trusted PACC Officer, was implicated by his former undercover agent, Mary Ong a.k.a. Rosebud in a big time drug trafficking operation. It was suspected that Campos knew too much about the illegal drug operation and was planning to reveal what he knew to the authorities, thus he was eliminated.



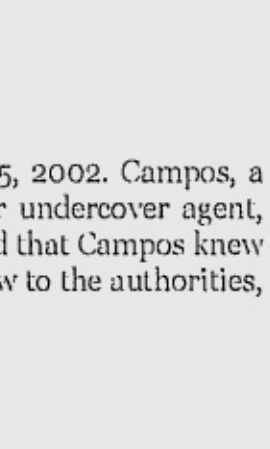
2003
PSSupt. Teofilo Viña

Police Senior Superintendent Teofilo Viña was shot to death on January 08, 2003. Viña was tagged as the planner and together with other PAOC-TF operatives, implemented the Dacer-Corbito kidnap murder. He was the key figure in the solution of the Bubby Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito kidnap-murder case. He was silenced before he could shed light on the case and reveal the mastermind.

"Udong" Mahusay, Pinagtangkaan?



Sino ang Susunod? ?



Ipaglaban ang Katarungan!

Gov't warned of unrest in PNP over nonpayment of retirement benefits

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION ally Sen. Robert Barbers has warned of restiveness within the ranks of the Philippine National Police, should Malacañang fail to pay the retirement benefits of around 9,000 more police retirees.

Barbers disclosed that of a total 21,000 police retirees as of December 2002, only about 12,000 received full retirement packages.

"This is outrageous," said Barbers, a former police colonel. "(The retirees) have spent the best times of their lives serving and protecting the people."

Further delay in the benefits of the remaining claimants "would cause low morale and massive dissatisfaction among junior officers and even retirable police generals and their men," Barbers said.

He blamed Budget Sec. Emilia Boncodin for the mess: "Every time we have a hearing in the Senate, she and her representatives just keep promising to pay."

The 21,000 retirees include those from the defunct Integrated National Police, some of whom earlier filed a civil case against the DBM. They complained that they were receiving lower pension than their PNP counterparts.

On March 21, 2003, Manila Judge Juan Nabong Jr. ruled that the INP retirees were "entitled to the same or identical retirement benefits and such other benefits granted, accorded and bestowed upon PNP retirees under the PNP Law."

But the court victory was short-lived. The DBM, through the Solicitor General, filed an appeal for reconsideration.

Quoting Felicisimo Lazaro, president of the Manila's Finest Retirees Association, Inc., Barbers pointed out that the less than 500 surviving INP retirees might not live to see the resolution of the appeal and enjoy their benefits.

Earlier, Senate President Franklin Drilon urged Boncodin to look for other sources of funds for the retirement packages.

Upon the department's recommendation, Drilon said, Congress had allocated only P1.086 billion in the national budget for the PNP pension fund. He agreed that the DBM had "underestimated the pension needs of retired policemen."

SolGen asks SC to dismiss state of rebellion raps

THE SOLICITOR General yesterday urged the Supreme Court to dismiss the cases filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo for declaring a state of rebellion during the July 27 coup attempt.

Since Ms Macapagal had lifted the state of rebellion, the cases were "moot and academic," Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said. In the first place, he pointed out, the President had the authority to issue such a proclamation.

"The Constitution grants the President certain powers in times of grave emergency ... as long as her acts are within the bounds of the Constitution and prevailing laws," Benipayo said. "Among others, the President may call on the military to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., political parties Sanlakas, Partido ng Manggagawa, the Social Justice Society, and several congressmen earlier challenged the legality of the state of rebellion.

Benipayo said their fears that the proclamation could lead to the curtailment of civil liberties were "unfounded." *Philip C. Tubeza*

Berbano cremation set tonight

THE REMAINS of Teddy Berbano, Philippine Journalists publisher and former chair of the board, will be cremated at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City at 9 p.m.

Berbano succumbed to cancer on Aug. 29. He was 60 years old.

A native of Cagayan, Teddy started his career in journalism at the Weekly Graphic magazine in the '60s.

His remains lie at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in New Manila, Quezon City, where a Mass will be held at 7 tonight.

Berbano is survived by wife Loida; children Emil John and Raphaelle and Ria; grandchild Piper, sister Marita and other relatives and friends.

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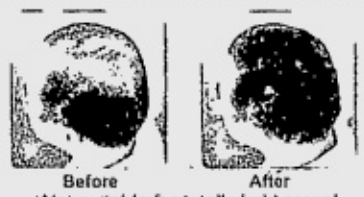
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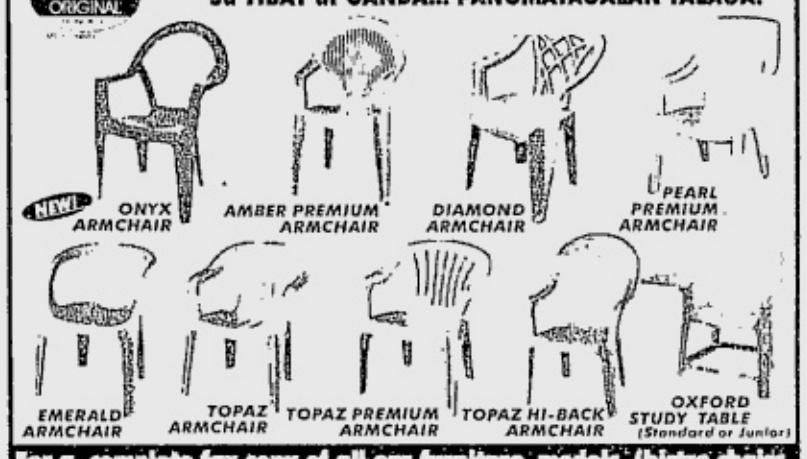
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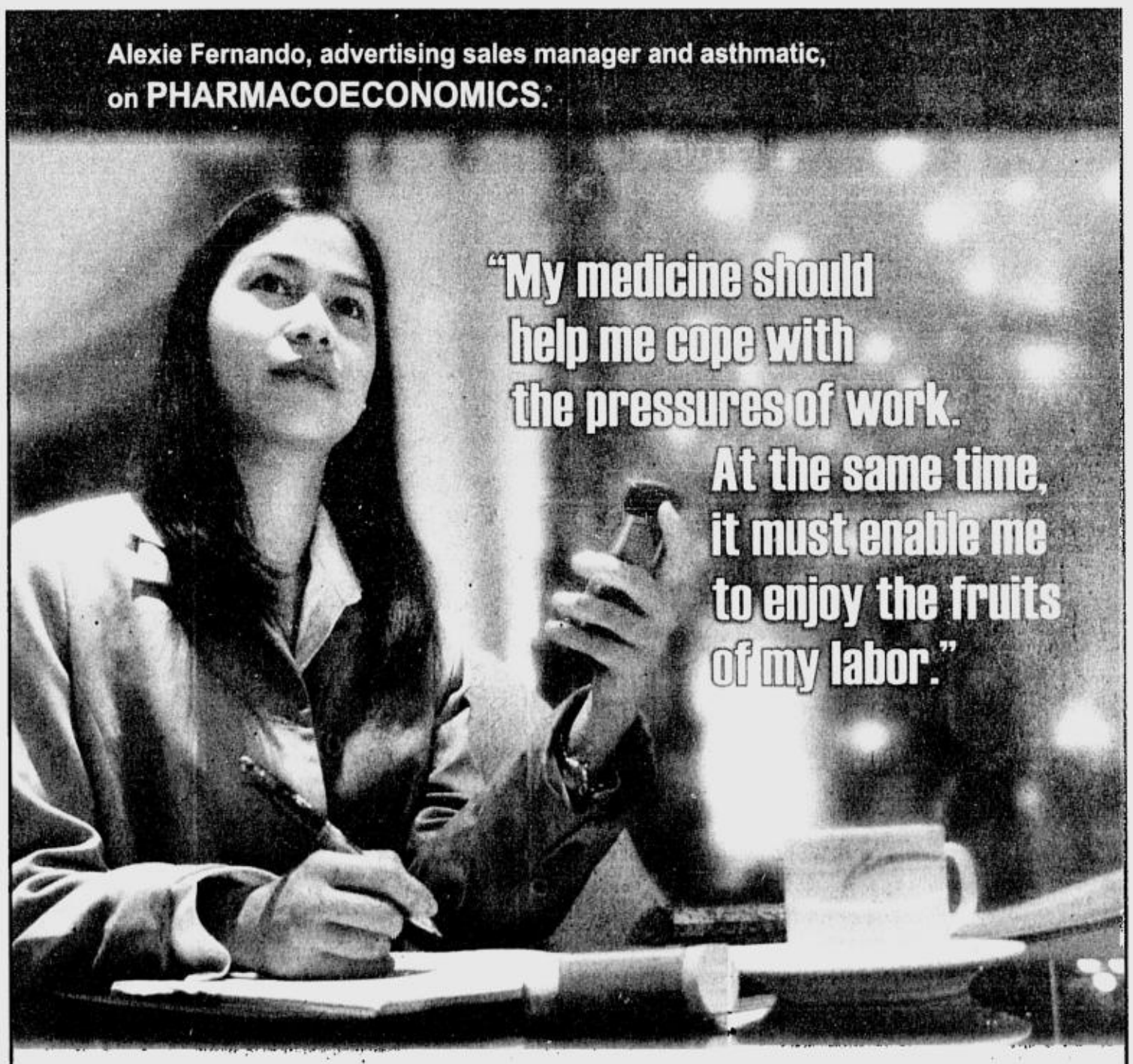
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Heat wave

IT WAS one of the most searing and most deadly environmental and public health disasters to hit Europe in decades, if not centuries. Last Friday, the International Herald Tribune reported that the number of people who died in this summer's heat wave in Europe may have totalled 20,000.

EDITORIAL

In France, perhaps the worst affected by the *canicule* (hot summer days), about 10,000 people were reported to have died as a result of the *vague de chaleur* (heat wave). Many victims were old people who were left at home by family members who left on holiday. (This is something that does not happen in the Philippines where people bring along the old folks on their vacation trips or sufficiently provide for their food and health needs.)

Another factor that accounted for the insufficient health care accorded the elderly at a time of unusual weather was a law that limits France's working week to 35 hours. The law left hospitals short-staffed at the height of the heat spell.

The International Herald Tribune said that "images of refrigerated trucks and tents set up to hold the overflow of unclaimed corpses... have become the shocking visual leitmotif of this summer." How ironic that a body should enjoy airconditioning and refrigeration when it is already stone cold and dead.

In Spain, a national patients' rights watchdog group put the number of heat wave deaths at 2,000. In Portugal, where hectares of forests were destroyed by fires, the health ministry reported 1,316 deaths in the first two weeks of August. In Italy, where temperatures rose to as high as 40 degrees Celsius or 104 Fahrenheit, the deaths were estimated at about 1,000. The estimate was in the range of 900-1,000 in Britain and the Netherlands.

In Germany the heat wave prompted the government to impose speed restrictions on the rail network as tracks were buckling in the extreme heat and trains were derailing.

What caused the heat wave? It was attributed to the intense monsoon activity in the sub-Saharan Africa, funneling hot desert air over Europe and blocking cooler air. But it may also have been one indication of the accelerated global warming. The continuous, unabated burning of fossil fuels and industrial activity produce chlorofluorocarbons that punch big holes in the ozone layer that protects the earth from the excessive heat of the sun. Deforestation depletes the oxygen in the air and increases carbon dioxide. Desertification makes the air hotter. We may have seen this year the beginning of the warming of the planet's temperate zones.

One factor that may have aggravated the effects of the heat wave is the lack of airconditioning in the old buildings of France, specially Paris. Probably the owners didn't think about installing airconditioners because in the past, summers were usually mild and the heat was bearable, and indeed, was actually welcome after the harsh winters. In Paris you have to stay at a 3-, 4- or 5-star hotel that is *climatisé* (airconditioned) if you want to escape from the sweltering heat.

Filipinos would easily survive the heat wave of Europe. After all, they are used to temperatures of 35 to 40 Celsius in their tropical country, and even to searing highs of 45 to 50 Celsius in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Middle Eastern countries.

But Europe's experience with this most deadly and disastrous heat wave should serve as a warning to areas in the Philippines that are susceptible to cold waves, such as the Mountain Province. Early this year, in Baguio alone six deaths were reported caused by the cold wave.

The record heat wave in Europe should also serve as a reminder to us Filipinos that we are in the midst of a continuing environmental disaster that does not seem to worry most of us. We refer to the worsening air pollution in Metro Manila and other cities and highly urbanized areas. An ADB report said air pollution has caused thousands of deaths and cost about $392 million in treatment in 2001.

Already there are indications that there are some major changes in weather patterns in the Philippines. For instance, August is normally a hot, sweltering month but last month was comparatively mild, and was marked by some typhoons and a lot of rain. We have to prepare for the rest of the rainy season this year which could see more extensive flooding, higher floodwaters and the death of hundreds and the destruction of millions of pesos worth of crops, public and private property unless steps to prevent them or at least mitigate their effects are taken at this time.

We have misused and abused our environment, and now we are suffering the karma of our misdeeds.

Political summit should have limited agenda

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

SNAP election? What for? President Macapagal-Arroyo's term is ending in nine months. The political season starts next month, when political parties can already hold their conventions and choose their presidential, vice presidential and senatorial candidates. Candidates have to file their certificates of candidacy by Dec. 15. So even if you call a snap election tomorrow, you gain only about a month.

How much will a snap election cost the taxpayers? Billions of pesos which we cannot spare. Then we will have the regular elections next year, for which we will spend more billions.

A snap election just so GMA will step down one month earlier? If it was Sen. Ramon Revilla who proposed the snap election, I wouldn't have been surprised. But Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, the sister of Ninoy Aquino? Proves that intelligence is not genetic.

Besides, there is no vacancy for the presidency. For what position will the snap election be? What's more, we will need a law to authorize a snap election. President Marcos was able to do it because as a dictator he had legislative powers. Ms Macapagal doesn't have such powers unless she declares martial law. Do we want her to do that?

Fortunately, Oreta came to her senses two days later—after hearing all the reasons why a snap poll is impractical—and withdrew her proposal and endorsed the holding of a political summit instead.

A political summit, ah, that's better—because talking is better than fighting. But the administration and the opposition should first agree on a limited agenda, otherwise the summit will deteriorate into a debating society. And the networks should not televise the proceedings, or the participants will be tempted to grandstand for the benefit of the viewers.

Speaking of participants, the judiciary should be represented in the summit because one important topic should be the very slow administration of justice and the perception of corruption in the judiciary and the prosecution arm. The slow turning of the wheels of justice is one reason for the rise in graft and corruption, crime and the squatting problem.

The justice system is the deterrent to crime. But if a person who is criminally bent knows that even if caught, it would take years before he is convicted and he may even be able to beat the rap by bribing judges, prosecutors and policemen, or he may be able to delay the trial so much that the complainant and his witnesses may die or lose interest before the case is decided, he will not be deterred from committing the crime.

Many grafters are still in office many years after charges have been filed against them, and they still continue to commit the crimes they have been accused of. *Tuloy ang ligaya.*

The squatting problem has worsened a thousandfold because it is so difficult to eject them even if squatting and ejectment cases are very simple cases. It now pays to squat because of the paradox in government policies that reward criminals, the squatters, and punish law-abiding citizens, the property owners.

One of the promises of the President was to reduce red tape but she herself added to it (perhaps unknowingly, perhaps because she was politicking) when she issued Executive Order 152 giving unconstitutional powers to the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor (PCUP) to demand so many requirements before a squatter can be ejected, that it is practically impossible to solve the squatting problem.

* * *

There are many other important topics that the political summit should tackle: the economy, peace and order, reforms in the military, graft and corruption, how to hold clean and honest elections, etc. But the summit agenda should be limited to the most important ones, otherwise it will be like another Congress.

Participants should also be selected carefully. Everybody and anybody would like to be there. But if everybody is accepted and allowed to talk his head off, the summit will never be able to accomplish anything.

Most of all, there should be a sincere desire on the part of the participants to come to an agreement. But if they will go there just to grandstand, heckle the administration, provide sound bytes to television, get publicity and use the summit as propaganda, nothing will be achieved.

There have been many other summits before (this administration has a fetish for summits)—economic summit, peace and order summit, employment summit, etc.—but what happened afterwards? Nothing. For the sake of our country, this political summit should be different.

* *

Resigned Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes is the victim not only of the coup plotters but also of intrigues from within the administration, of which he is a part. He was sacrificed.

Speaker Jose de Venecia is pushing for his provincemate, former President Fidel V. Ramos, to be the replacement of Reyes. Haven't we had enough of him yet?

Nandy Pacheco of the Gunless Society called to say that the next defense secretary should be a civilian, not former military men like Ramos and Reyes. And, Nandy added, he should be anti-gun.

TODAY'S JOKE:

Ano ang difference *ng* holdup man *sa* politician?

Answer: *Ang* holdup man *magnanakaw tapos tatakbo. Ang* politician *tatakbo muna, tapos magnanakaw.*

Destabilization

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

WHAT a dimwitted thing that was, Roilo Golez's accusation that Boy Morales was one of those who plotted to destabilize the government by leading a throng to the Edsa Shrine last week—a plot presumably foiled by the deployment of troops there.

Franklin Drilon has already rebuked him for that statement, one made utterly without basis, or based on military intelligence, which are two ways of saying the same thing. "To come before the Senate and report that Mr. Morales is involved without any concrete evidence will besmirch his reputation," Drilon said. "That is why there is so much political bickering because of your propensity to mention names in public."

But political bickering is the least of the nasty things Golez's propensity to shoot his mouth off brings. The ruination of the country is first. I don't know why only Angelo Reyes was made to resign when the national security adviser is the bigger threat to national security. Golez was the one who also told the country some months ago he had it on military intelligence, which captures fully the state of his own, that unless George Bush invaded Iraq, Saddam Hussein's poison gases would fall into the hands of Moro terrorists. Unfortunately for the MILF, whom Golez has reduced to the rubric of "Moro terrorists," they cannot, unlike Boy, count on anyone in the Senate to speak on their behalf.

To say that Golez is a loose cannon is to say that Marcos stole loose change. But it is more than that evidence and people's reputations are the least of his concerns, it is also that democracy is the least of the concepts this graduate of Annapolis understands. The implications of his statements are chilling.

Even if we grant that Boy Morales was involved in, or even plotted to lead, an "Edsa IV" at the Edsa Shrine, what of it? Why should that constitute destabilization? Since when did an Edsa movement become subversive? Even "Edsa III" was not. It was a completely legitimate gathering of people to express their grievances. I will always maintain that what turned it from an ordinary partisan rally into something resembling real people power was that it went beyond expressions of support for Erap to expressions of outrage by the country's marginalized majority. Underneath the atavistic demands lay a true rebellion of the poor.

What was destabilizing was the riot at Mendiola. What was subversive was the fallen Erap's lieutenants goading the horde to "*Sugod! Sugod!*" to Malacañang. Not quite incidentally, as I've said a couple of times, none of those lieutenants has been prosecuted or jailed. The only one who suffered that fate was Ronald Lumbao, the least of the culprits. Golez speaks of military intelligence, well, you do not need intelligence of any kind to know that Miriam Santiago's appearance on TV placing a gun on a table and daring the authorities to come and arrest her was an open defiance of the law. Nothing happened to her. Now she's free to shoot her mouth off again, like Golez.

What is destabilizing is not the threat that Morales or anybody else will start another Edsa at the Edsa Shrine, it is the threat that the soldiers posted at the Edsa Shrine poses. Yes, threat. That is a clear and monumental threat to democracy. "People power"—which by the way is the hardest thing to mount, make no mistake about it—as a way to expose tyranny and seek redress for it is enshrined in the Constitution. Or more than the Constitution, in the living tradition of this country, which is really what the Constitution means: It is what constitutes the nation. That was what constituted this government, a thoroughly undeserving one, to begin with.

So long as a gathering at the Edsa Shrine, mammoth or not, remains peaceful—and what is "people power" but a non-violent expression of sovereign will?—it is legal, ethical and moral. So long as a throng gathered at Edsa merely excoriates Jose Pidal and company, demands an investigation of the bombers of Davao and calls for the ways of peace rather than war, it has a right to be there. It does not thwart democracy, it upholds it.

Quite apart from this, Golez's remarks and the placement of troops at the Edsa Shrine in fact subvert the whole concept of rallies or demonstrations. A gathering at the Edsa Shrine does not necessarily mean another Edsa, it may merely mean another rally or demonstration. The right to peaceful assembly is enshrined in the Constitution. That was the right implicitly involved by a few lost former NGO souls when they tried to rally the people around Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (and not the republic she represents) when she was besieged by a military mutiny last month. They succeeded only in drawing a handful of equally lost souls at the shrine.

You may not discriminate in favor of one group against another, rally-wise or demonstration-wise, and call that constitutional. Neither may you preempt a rally or demonstration on the ground that it might turn violent—that is censorship.

And still neither may you prevent people from occupying the Edsa Shrine to express their grievances. Bishop Socrates Villegas may shout his head off that the Edsa Shrine is private property and is far too holy to turn into a place for politics but he should tell that to his boss, Jaime Cardinal Sin. No, he should tell that to himself. Edsa I and II turned that place into public property—usurping Plaza Miranda's claim to being the Hyde Park of the Philippines—and the fight against any form of tyranny, a political as much as moral act, is what makes that shrine a shrine. Not Jaime, or Socrates.

It's right to punish the people who are destabilizing our democracy. Unfortunately, neither Roilo nor Gloria can see who they are.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Ignacio Arroyo surfaces

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



IGNACIO Arroyo, younger brother of the First Gentleman, surfaced yesterday at a press conference to formally claim the Jose Pidal accounts that Sen. Panfilo Lacson had accused Mike Arroyo of owning. "Ignacito," as he is called in the family, said he put the accounts under an alias for security reasons, but that was a "common business practice" in the late 1990s when kidnapping was prevalent. He said there was no violation of any law since this was before the Anti-Money Laundering Act took effect in September 2001. Ignacio asserted that he closed his Jose Pidal accounts, including that in Union Bank, one month before the Amla was enforced.

Ignacio directly challenged Lacson's allegation that Mike Arroyo, alias Jose Pidal, had a Union Bank account containing many millions as of July 2003. Lacson had earlier claimed that Mike Arroyo had an account in the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Perea branch, but BPI denied the existence of such account and that it closed its Perea branch four years ago. Now that Ignacio has claimed those accounts, it's now up to Lacson to prove they exist.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel is correct when he said that Lacson is "in trouble if he can't prove his allegations." Ultimately this fight boils down to the documents. As this column was being written Lacson made more allegations of hidden bank accounts, but as in the first account, he has to substantiate his accusations. The problem with being caught with inaccuracies is that subsequent facts offered become subject to doubt, and this is true for both camps. Was Lacson peddling lies merely to malign the First Family, as Ignacio alleged yesterday?

* * *

But even as Mike Arroyo deals with his problems in the Senate and the court, where he filed a libel suit against Lacson, President Macapagal-Arroyo seems bent on distancing herself from her husband. Palace invitations to two official functions seem to bear this out: the first was the small dinner for about 30 people to welcome the chair of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, Wu Bangguo, last Sunday evening; the other was to the big Palace dinner for delegates to the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) this Wednesday. Both invitations carried only the name of President Macapagal, and last Sunday he was conspicuously absent from the dinner. This is significant considering that Wu, the No. 2 man in the Chinese hierarchy, brought his wife and normally when the VIP spouses are present, the First Gentleman is also around. In fact he is the one who usually bids guests farewell by the grand staircase at Palace functions. Earlier in the week, though, the First Couple attended the birthday party of Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, and came and left together.

* * *

That no one seems to want the defense post, recently vacated by Angelo Reyes, may be an indication of how huge the problems in the military are. Former President Fidel Ramos scolded Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and Negros Rep. Monico Puentebella for nominating him to the post, while Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who's running for reelection, also said he's not keen on having it. One popular choice is Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., whose father once occupied the post, but he has disclaimed interest, which is not surprising since it would mean cutting his Senate term.

* * *

The 4th General Assembly of the Asian Parliaments that opened last Sunday and continues until Thursday at the Manila Hotel, hosted by the Philippine Congress, has been a huge success. It drew some 237 delegates from 38 parliaments in various parts of Greater Asia, the biggest attendance in the AAPP's four years of existence. As Speaker Jose de Venecia said in his welcome remarks, many nations participated for the first time in the Manila assembly, including Australia, Libya and Egypt. Its evocative theme, "Towards a Hundred Years of Peace in Asia," couldn't be more apt in the light of continuing fears of terrorism bedeviling the region. JDV was elected AAPP chair, replacing China's Wu Bangguo. In his extemporaneous acceptance speech, JDV highlighted the fact that Asia is the cradle of all the great religions and cultures of the world, but unfortunately it is also the scene of some of the major conflicts. JDV exhorted the various Asian parliaments to commit themselves to becoming the dominant force for peace in the region. He then batted for the proposal he first put forward to US President George W. Bush during GMA's state visit: to hold a dialogue of civilizations, beginning with a global Christian-Muslim dialogue, in order to address the "great politico-religious conflicts" in the region. As JDV expounded extemporaneously on this theme, Rep. Edmundo Reyes of Marinduque murmured, "*Pang*-international *talaga si* Speaker—another Kofi Annan."

* * *

China's Wu came with some very significant gifts. One was the currency swap agreement between the People's Bank of China and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, whereby the Bangko Sentral can swap pesos for renminbi up to the equivalent of $1 billion, effective for three years. This can be used for balance of payments and short-term liquidity support, meaning the amount will be there in case RP needs the dollars. The other big gift was the formalization of China's long-term financial assistance for infrastructure projects, including the modernization of our railways from Manila to San Fernando, La Union, and from Calamba City to Legazpi City and Sorsogon up to Matnog. Modernizing our railway system is necessary if this country is to industrialize fully, and the Chinese soft loan is well-appreciated.

Cecile Licad in the mud

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



HERE'S a story, told by freelance writer Babeth Lolarga, on the adventures she and her companions—internationally acclaimed pianist Cecile Licad, Licad's son Otavio, film director Marilou Diaz Abaya, writer-impressario Paulo Tariman and painter Allain Llaguna—went through on a recent visit to the Banaue Rice Terraces.

I'm using the story largely to illustrate not just the fate of one of our "living national treasure," as Licad is known, but also the practical difficulties that tourists face even as they try to appreciate our natural wonders.

Licad last week went to Tuguegarao, Cagayan, for an outreach concert at the Mother Madeline Hall of St. Paul University, winning the hearts of her audience after the full concert, followed by three encore numbers, including "a tough Rachmaninoff prelude." Lolarga says students, teachers and even visitors from Isabela, the Ilocos provinces, La Union and Manila lined up afterwards for autographs, eagerly holding out their souvenir programs and CDs. A buffet reception laid out for her by the university staff under Sr. Angela Barrios capped the night.

As Lolarga tells it, the morning after, Licad and company decided to make a side trip to Banaue on their way back to Manila because neither she, her son nor even Abaya had ever seen the famous rice terraces. The tourism department provided them a van for the trip to Banaue, which they reached just before sundown, with enough time to take in the sights before the rain started falling.

* * *

LATER that evening, writes Lolarga, "I went down to the front desk and noticed a commotion. One clerk, Editha Immatong, looked particularly anguished. When I asked what the matter was, I was told there had been several mudslides and her two nephews were unaccounted for... Later, Immatong learned that her nephews made it through and her face lightened up. Even then our party (began to worry) how we would make it to the lowlands the next day in time for Licad and her son to take the 8 a.m. flight to New York (leaving Saturday, Aug. 30) and for her to rehearse for her next concert with the Madison Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin.

"In the morning, Tariman and I were on the phone trying to get through to Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, the Armed Forces, which referred me to Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., deputy chief of staff for operations, and the US Embassy. Meanwhile, the hotel manager got through the Philippine Tourism Authority only to learn that the only helicopter available was not in good condition.

"To his credit, Esperon responded but with an apology that the two choppers in his command had been deployed, and that he had checked and found out that the conditions at the Loakan Airport (in Baguio) and Bagabag airstrip in Nueva Vizcaya were 'not flyable.' Told that there had been mudslides the night before and the injured brought to the Lagawe hospital, he said he was sending a National Disaster Coordinating Center team to help clear the roads.

"The office of the American ambassador referred me to the American Citizens Division where I explained that a New York resident (Licad who remains a Filipino citizen) and her American-born son were stranded. The lady at the other end of the line asked if they were injured and I honestly said they were not, but they had to fly back to the States the very next day.

"I passed the phone to Tariman who learned that if an American citizen is injured, the embassy could send a chopper; if not, it could get in touch with a private company, but he would have to pay P60,000 or thereabouts. He said thank you.

"Then it was Abaya's turn...We overheard her speaking in Japanese and earlier calling her dive master to find a chopper, too, but again she was told the clouds were too thick."

* * *

THE "CRISIS" coincided with Otavio's 16th birthday, so Licad "connived" with the hotel staff to produce a small chocolate cake for an impromptu birthday celebration. By lunchtime, the group decided to take matters into their own hands and just hike to a rendezvous point almost two kilometers away to meet another van sent by Muñoz Mayor Nestor Alvarez, "the very first and only government official to respond in concrete form to our SOS."

"The DOT van brought us to the nearest mudslide," Lolarga recalls, "and we hitched up our pants and waded through knee-high mud. Licad walked briskly, determinedly and almost slipped once. Abaya, a trained paramedic, prayed that she hoped any injury would only involve her feet, not her hands. When we had crossed three mudslides with soil, stones and plants on the right and ravines on the left, Tariman kept his mobile phone open until (he got in touch with) a friend of Licad, who was shocked to learn that the pianist was walking through mud just to make it on time to Manila." The friend decided to mobilize resources to help out Licad.

"That was when a private chopper was suddenly made available," says Lolarga. "We boarded Alvarez's van which promptly took us to the Bagabag airstrip in less than an hour and a half. Within minutes, the drone of a chopper could be heard, and the valued passengers (including Abaya) were put on board.

"We went home with the memory of Cecile bravely smiling through it all after hours of tension-filled smoking and coffee drinking, saying thank you to everyone who made this last visit memorable. In a just world, her ordeal (would have elicited) some sympathy from media or from this current administration."

Thank God for friends with helicopters at their beck and call, then, and for providence for sparing a "living national treasure" from harm and goodness knows what else.

Observations on a lifestyle

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



A LONG time ago, especially in the rural areas, houses were built on lots with small orchards, fenced in with strong, thick clusters of bamboo, exceedingly close together to prevent the entry of stray animals. The fruit trees, planted both for shade and fruits, surrounded the houses. The interior furnishings were generally simple. In the patio, the first visible object was the mortar that used to separate the husk from rice.

Bamboo and thick cane were used for various purposes, even as utensils. There were as well cups and spoons made of coconut shells. A knife called *goloc* and a small bench that was used as a table were indispensable. Oil was kept in a Chinese porcelain glass while illumination came from lamps called *tinghoy* or *candil de barro*. Twisted stalks of resin torches, baskets with betel leaves, prepared lime, coconuts, and a flute or guitar were standard. Always a crucifix and an image of the Virgin hung on a wall.

The rich had, as is natural, better and more spacious houses. Even though made of nipa, like those of the poor, the roof had underpinnings of iron sheets. The houses were constructed on stilts to lessen the humidity. The partition walls were made of palm leaves and the doors of narra, red wood or *molawin*. A dining room, living room, bedrooms, small ante-sala or *descanso* formed the body of the house.

The foreigners and mestizos constructed their dwellings with lime and stone (*cal y canto*) and usually covered the roof with tiles. The pillars, necessary to support the upper story, were of bricks or of trunks of *molawin*. Many of these houses, although not large, were better than many in Europe. When the construction was finished, a crucifix blessed by a priest was placed in the finial.

All types of comfort and luxury items were found in these houses. Religious images, especially the Sto. Niño of Cebu and Our Lady of Antipolo, attested to the piety of the owners.

A fabricated house of bamboo, rattan, nipa and other light materials cost some P30. And while these were not very solid and easily burnt, they had the advantage of being portable and suitable for the climate of the islands. Another danger that the residents were exposed to were floods; when rivers overflowed these houses were dragged through the streets by the current.

Europeans were struck by the sense of resignation displayed by the natives in the face of such misfortunes. When fire or flood destroyed their houses, the natives constructed another, while temporarily taking shelter in the house of a neighbor.

Rice was known as *canin* in Tagalog and *morisqueta* in Spanish. Fish was eaten fresh, that is, removed out of the water only when the cooking fire was ready and the oil in the pan had turned hot. Otherwise, it was eaten well-dried and salted.

Meat deer was also fare, but it had to be a young stag to avoid disease. Dried meat (*tapa*) was made from this animal as well as from the carabao and wild ox; considered extremely healthy and good for digestion, medics recommended such meat for those suffering from stomach and digestive problems.

There were many significant celebrations, like the anniversary of the victory against the Chinese pirates on the feast day of San Andres. The governor general, members of the Ayuntamiento, the Cabildo, the Audiencia and other authorities, rode in gala carriages preceded by four flag bearers, followed by the troops from the garrison in Manila. The royal lieutenant carried the city's standard and the royal pendant. In this manner, they went through the streets of the city until they returned to the plaza mayor.

The most important gala was the reception given in honor of a new governor. It lasted from three to five days. On the first day, the authorities would congregate and the troops would be reviewed to the sounds of drums and bells and the roll of carriage wheels on flagstones, the sound of cannons in the background.

The second day was the most solemn. Silence dominated the atmosphere, providing conspicuous contrast to the noise of the previous day. After his swearing in before the Supreme Tribunal, the new governor, whose term lasted for six years, received from his predecessor the staff of office and the keys to the city. A series of dinners and balls followed, graced with the presence of Manila's beautiful daughters. The fireworks and illuminations at Sta. Cruz and Tondo attracted a multitude of participants and observers and are worthy of mention to this day.

Carnivals (*dias de mascara*) were also held. Young boys wearing masks went through the streets dressed as Christians and Moors performing mock battles and sword fights.

(Data from Cronica General De España O Historia Ilustrada De Sus Provincias Y Descriptiva 1871)

Bootleg economy

YOUNG BLOOD

Allan Lardizabal

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FOR many years now, the anti-piracy campaigns have been anchored on making us feel guilty. Recording companies appeal to our innocence and goodwill and tell us that buying originals is good while buying fakes is a sin.

This is not to say they are wrong, but many people believe that line without giving the matter much thought.

The success of the campaign can be attributed, in part, to public policy. At work here is a behavior-attitude correspondence: since the law restricts our actions as regards fake CDs (behavior), we develop the view that buying them is actually bad (attitude).

But whose interests are we really protecting? A dominant theme in the campaigns goes like this: "Support the artist by stopping music piracy." It is as if the money really goes to the artist. But in reality, what we are being asked to do is support multibillion-dollar companies, which operate across 100 countries so that they will continue raking in huge profits. Only a small fraction of every P450 we pay for a CD goes to the artist in the form of royalty.

Companies justify the high cost of music, movies and other mass-produced arts by saying production and marketing costs are also high. Marketing, in simpler terms, is media hype and publicity. These are not factors of production, but the companies charge us the price.

Piracy is showing us a more cost-efficient way of distributing such things as music and movies: Just mass-produce the record and then sell it without going through useless middlemen. If we factor in artist's royalty and taxes, its price would be higher than the P30 it costs to buy an empty CD but still way below the current price of originals. Without the marketing cost, all we have to pay for are the CD and the artist's royalty, which should be the case. After all, we buy records or see movies not because of publicity but because of talent, quality and the reasonableness of the price.

This is not to justify theft of intellectual property. All my support goes to the artist. I have a band, too, and one of these days we intend to share our music with other people. And I do believe that property should be protected by the government. But cheaper CDs do not necessarily translate into injury to the artist. All we need is a system that mass-produces records in a cost-efficient way, and at the same time ensures that the artist receives the credit as well as the revenue due him. This way, record labels, or what they are today, are done away with.

Intellectual property rights belong to the artist, not the company. But nowadays, it is as if the company owns the artist and whatever he produces. Property rights have become a formality through which the company makes the artist believe that he is in control, when in fact the use of the product and the profits go to the company.

In the second place, intellectual property should not cost too much. If CD prices were lower, the artist would be able to reach more people and still receive money and recognition. Talent belongs to the artist, while art belongs to the world. Neither belongs to the multibillion-dollar company.

I am not proposing piracy as an alternative. But I am saying that piracy, working on the principles of competition, can bring about much lower prices.

I have a friend whose family owns a parcel of land somewhere in Quezon. Before globalization crept into the local market, they sold a kilo of copra for P17. Because of the competition globalization brought in, the price of copra sank to P3. My friend's family had to look for cheaper means of production to remain competitive and at the same time tried to improve the quality of their product so that buyers would still buy them. Competition was bad for their business but good for the consumers.

The case of my friend's family is no different from that of Bong Revilla and his friends. If they really want to earn on the basis of their talents, they should keep their prices competitive and at the same time ensure the quality of their product so that people would like to buy them.

The only difference between the two cases is power. In my friend's case, the competition had the government's blessing, because it favored free trade. In piracy, the competition is illegal, but only because the company owns the artist. The "pirates" cannot register and acquire legal status because the company would not let them. Because of public policy, the company uses its muscle to enforce a copyright that it does not own, and thus keeps the competition out. Imagine buying a Regine Velasquez CD legally from vendors on the *bangketa*, who are regulated by law, at less than half current prices.

The entire issue, then, becomes a matter of ensuring that profit goes to the artist, and that his art is shared by the world. The only reason we are not able to do this is that the law protects the interest of the recording companies. Piracy may not be the solution, but it can bring about a much better system through the workings of a free-market economy. Competition should be allowed to challenge the monopolists.

Allan Lardizabal, 21, is a second year student at the University of the Philippines College of Law.

THEY SAID

Winning attitude

"We have nothing to lose, we're fed up with losing."
—National University coach Rico Perez after a surprise win over Ateneo in the UAAP basketball tournament

Best bet

"He almost always kills himself in training, so I'm sure he's still the best Filipino hope for a world title."
—Boxing trainer Justiniano Velasquez on former World Boxing Council International flyweight champion Malcolm Tunacao

No politics

"This is sports and we're apolitical."
—Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, inviting all 17 regions to send representatives to the Palarong Pambansa in Lanao del Norte

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Not at the expense of power consumers

MERALCO'S media offensive and ads to pre-sell its settlement agreement with the National Power Corp. (Napocor) are misleading.

Meralco's main selling pitch is: if allowed to source its power from the Lopez-owned independent power producers (IPPs) at full contracted quantities, its customers stand to gain potential savings at P0.25 per kilowatt-hour.

It should be pointed out that an ERC Order dated March 20, 2003 (ERC Case Nos. 2001-646 and 2001-900) authorizes Meralco to charge P4.21/kwh for power sourced from its IPPs versus P2.19/kwh for power sourced from Napocor.

The problem, however, is not the power rate of Meralco versus that of Napocor. The problem is the overbuying of power supply from generation firms that are majority-owned by the Lopezes who also manage Meralco. The problem is Meralco presupposes that customers will accept the costly redundancy of power supply.

The contract between Napocor and Meralco is simple: Meralco committed to buy from Napocor, from January 1995 to December 2004, a minimum of 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity annually. Napocor contracted several independent power producers to guarantee supply to Meralco, and these IPP contracts are the obligation of all Filipinos, Napocor being state-owned.

Sometime in 1996, the Lopezes, expecting market growth, made major investments in power generation, building power capacities of 1,500 MW each at Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo and 450 MW at Quezon power. Meralco then entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Lopez IPPs despite the 10-year contract with Napocor. The electricity demand in the Meralco franchise was covered by two sources of power—the Lopez–owned IPPs and Napocor with its IPPs. But the market did not grow. We now have a serious overcapacity problem.

To protect the Lopez investment in generation, Meralco consequently reneged on its commitment to buy electricity from Napocor, leaving Napocor the surplus capacity it cannot sell. Meralco customers now pay for power, used or unused.

The action of the Lopez-controlled Meralco management in entering into contracts with the Lopez IPPs at a time when Meralco had an existing 10-year supply contract that could cover all its foreseeable demand in that period, is imprudent, unsound and contrary to the best interest of the Meralco customers. Meralco and the Lopez IPPs should bear the business loss resulting from their obvious self-dealing in a weak market.

Napocor should not allow Meralco to alter the contract to favor the Lopez generation firms. If it accepts the settlement agreement, Napocor's board of directors should be charged for betraying public interest.

—PETE L. ILAGAN,
president, National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms, Unit 616, Roxas Seafront Gardens, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

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Revisiting the Tasaday

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

THOSE were, if I may borrow from the title of Pete Lacaba's book about that era, days of disquiet and nights of rage. The year was 1971 and the country was in ferment, the Marcos presidency battling a legal opposition, the New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Some time in July that year, the government first announced that a previously unknown tribe, consisting of 27 men, women and children, had been found in South Cotabato. They apparently lived in caves, wearing only leaves and were totally dependent on nature, living by hunting and gathering.

For most Filipinos, more concerned with day to day issues of survival, the news of the Tasaday had little impact. Only one newspaper, the Manila Daily Mirror, carried the Tasaday story and buried it on Page 14: "Lost Tribe Found in C'Bato." But an American journalist, John Nance, caught the story and contacted Manda Elizalde, head of Panamin (Presidential Assistant for National Minorities), asking to visit the Tasaday. Eventually, word about the Tasaday spread around the world as American networks featured the tribe.

Elizalde was praised in the world's press and described as a protector of lost tribes, the Tasadays fondly calling him "Momo Dakel" (Big Uncle). He brought in a string of other visitors, from Imelda Marcos to Gina Lollobrigida and Charles Lindbergh, as well as anthropologists, archaeologists, linguists, botanists, and of course, journalists.

The world, too, was going through days of disquiet, with the Vietnam war and brutal US-supported dictatorships in every continent. The baby boomers born after World War II were now coming of age, and were discontented, asking too many questions. This was an era of hippies and drugs and the sexual revolution. Suddenly, the Tasaday offered a vision of what humans could have been: gentle (as in the book "The Gentle Tasaday") and peaceful (their language had no words for war).

The August 1972 issue of National Geographic featured Lobo, a little Tasaday boy, climbing a vine. The story itself carried a picture of a Tasaday father and son with this caption: "In naked innocence, a Tasaday boy toys with a bright bloom plucked from the wilds of a primeval Eden."

The Tasaday discovery did not go unchallenged. University of the Philippines professors Zeus Salazar and Jerome Bailen questioned the research methods used by the scientists brought in by Elizalde. Underlying these questions were suspicions about the motives of Elizalde and the Marcos administration. While the foreign press praised Elizalde for protecting the Tasaday and other minorities, local NGOs contemptuously referred to Panamin as "Pana-mina," reflecting suspicions that Elizalde and Marcos were after mineral resources in the area.

In 1974, the government ordered the Tasaday area closed to visitors, supposedly to protect the tribe. The Tasaday disappeared from public view until 1986, after Marcos was ousted, when Swiss journalist Oswald Iten and Filipino activist reporter Joey Lozano returned to the area. They produced an article claiming that the Tasaday, now wearing T-shirts and Levi's, were actually local farmers who had been asked to pretend they were members of a lost tribe. The German magazine Stern then sent two reporters to the area, where people had now reverted back to wearing leaves.

Debates erupted in local and international conferences, often involving angry exchanges between those who had discovered the Tasaday (notably John Nance) and those who looked at the Tasaday as one big fraud (mainly UP professors Salazar and Bailen, whom Elizalde, typical of the rich and powerful, haled to court with a libel suit).

Again, with time, the Tasaday eventually faded from the public eye but now we have a book from Robin Hemley, "Invented Eden: The Elusive, Disputed History of the Tasaday," reviving old debates while raising important new questions.

Hemley helps readers to untangle the many pieces of a huge puzzle, following one lead after another like a detective would. Hemley did extensive research, poring through newspapers, magazines, books and conference proceedings. Most importantly, he interviewed many of the protagonists, including politicians, researchers, journalists and the Tasaday themselves.

Because Hemley's book is so riveting, I don't want to spill the beans on his ending. I will do another column later this year where I will deal with his conclusions, but I want to recommend the book because it goes beyond the issue of whether the Tasaday were a hoax or not. As the title goes, "Invented Eden" challenges us to think about how our perceptions and interpretations of "reality" are, even with all claims of objectivity, affected by personal values, maybe even subconscious needs.

A photograph of a Tasaday child in the National Geographic article says it all: "'Nothing is more gentle than man in his primitive state,' wrote French philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau two centuries ago. His theory about the human condition seems borne out by this Tasaday child and his defenseless kin, who must now depend on the protection of 20th century man for their very survival as a people."

Perhaps we need to believe Eden was in the Philippines, in the Tasaday reservation. Alas, Hemley's book reminds us the saga of the Tasaday is actually another chapter in a less harmonious history of humanity, and of the Philippines. Hemley has no heroes or villains, instead sketching out an often depressing picture of our society, with its dehumanizing poverty and the poor all too easily transformed into dispensable pawns.

Dispensable, but not necessarily helpless. Hemley's book also sheds new light on the Tasaday themselves and their reactions to the outside world. Perhaps they learned to play with Momo Dakel and other potential benefactors. In other instances, they may have reacted with exasperation. Hemley writes about how the Tasaday would sometimes lapse into "nafnaf," a private "language" where all the words would end with the sound "nuf" indecipherable to the best of linguists. Hemley's interpretation of "nafnaf" is that the Tasaday probably switched to "nafnaf" when tired of the inquisitive outsiders.

More than 30 years after the Tasaday controversy first erupted, we live again in days of disquiet and nights of rage. Perhaps the Tasaday—if we mean those pushed to the margins— thrive in far greater numbers than we could ever have imagined. Perhaps we are rapidly becoming fragmented, becoming a mere conglomeration of lost worlds, lost tribes, lost souls.

* * *

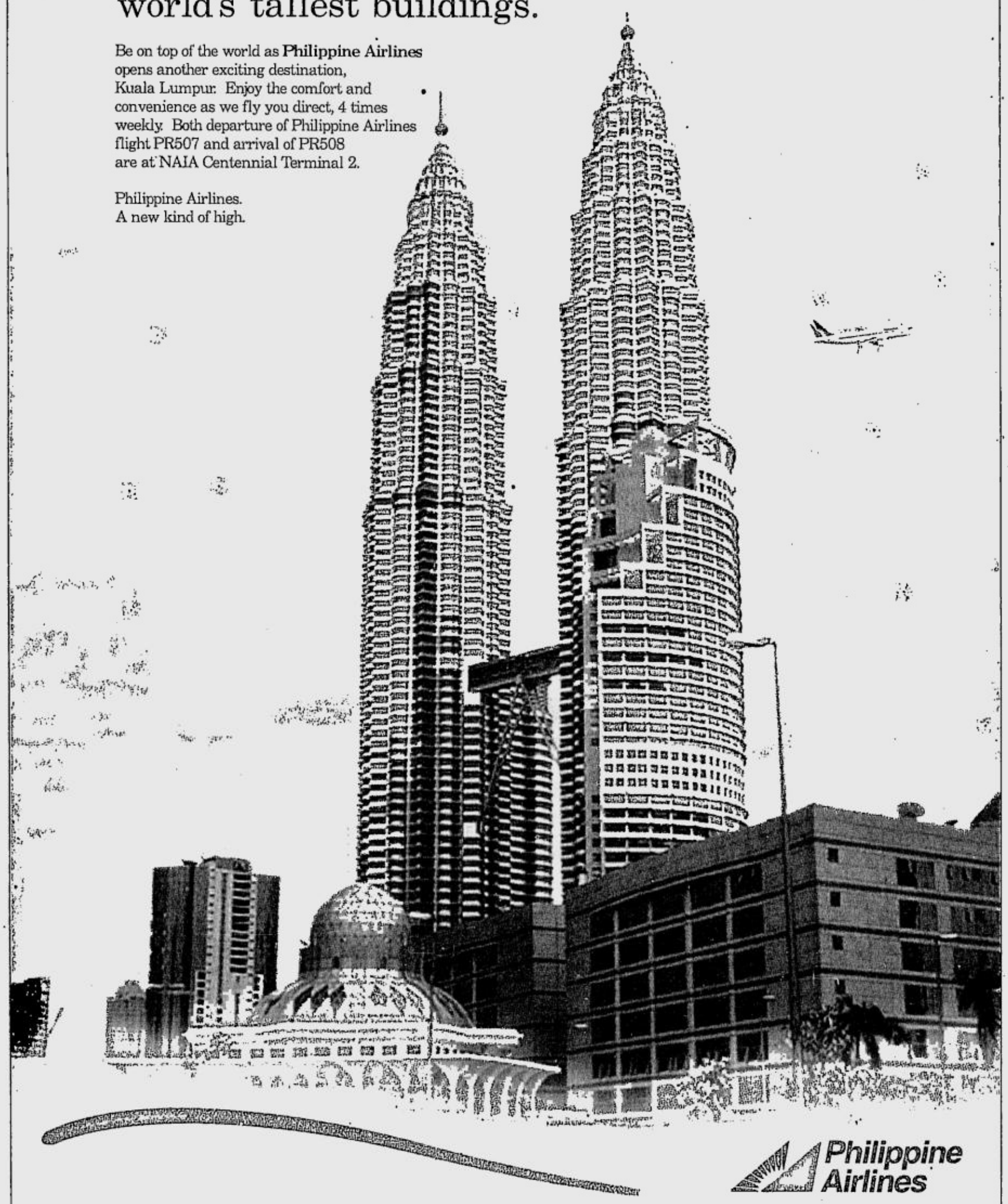
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Senators to Bush: Spell out Iraq costs

WASHINGTON—Lawmakers pressed US President George W. Bush on Sunday to spell out the cost to Americans of the occupation of Iraq, which a leading Republican said would top $30 billion over five years for operations alone.

US Sen. Richard Lugar, an Indiana Republican and chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the $30 billion was in addition to military costs that have been running about $4 billion a month.

"That's the target," Lugar told "Fox News Sunday." "That's about what the budget was... during the Saddam days, just to run the country."

Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican and member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, wrote in The Washington Post that the administration had to be explicit about what is going to be required.

"America's mission in Iraq is too important to fail. Given the stakes, we cannot launch this 'generational commitment' to changing the Middle East on the cheap," McCain wrote in an editorial.

"The administration should level with the American people about the cost and commitment required to transform Iraq."

The demands on Bush intensified as he returned to Washington from a month-long stay at his Texas ranch. The vacation was marred by violence in Iraq including Friday's car bombing in Najaf, which killed a top Shiite Muslim leader, and the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

Administration officials have said Bush may ask the US Congress to provide $2 billion to $3 billion over the short term for Iraq and some congressional sources are expecting a push for an emergency spending bill of $20 billion or more this year.

Congress passed a $60 billion emergency spending bill in April for US operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The US civil administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, said last week he needed tens of billions of dollars for the next year alone, citing $16 billion to deal with water problems and $13 billion for electrical power.

Lugar said the high price tag for operations, only half of which will be funded by the sale of Iraqi oil, would require "our going to the international community in a big way."

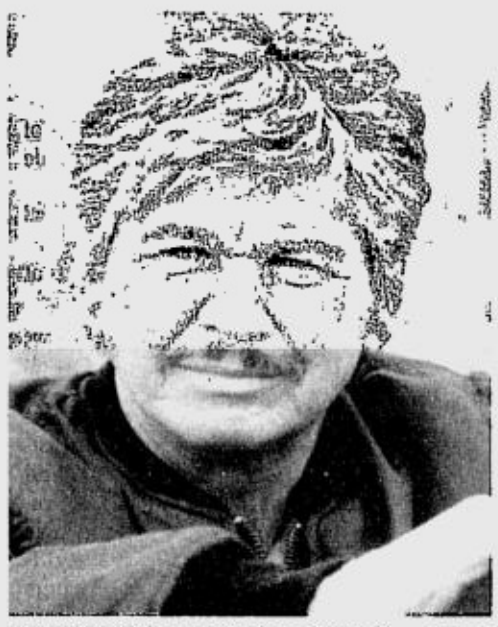
He said Bush needs to come before Congress when it returns this week to ask for specific funding measures for immediate use by Bremer and longer term.

"He should do that," Lugar said. "But beyond that, the president ought to sketch out the five-year picture."

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Texas Republican, acknowledged the gravity of the situation and said it was time to "go forward, and put the resources in."

But "it should not be all American dollars," Hutchison told CNN's "Late Edition."

In addition to seeking international funding, Bush faces decisions on how to improve security in Iraq, where nearly 140,000 US troops are stationed. The US death toll since he declared major combat over on May 1 has surpassed the total of 138 US troops who died during the war to oust Saddam Hussein. *Reuters*



BRONSON: I am not a fan of myself. REUTERS

US tough guy actor Charles Bronson, 81

By Arthur Spiegelman

LOS ANGELES—Coal miner-turned-tough-guy actor Charles Bronson, a star of more than 60 films including the popular "Death Wish" series in which he played a one-man army, has died at the age of 81, a spokesperson said on Sunday.

The craggy-faced Bronson died of pneumonia on Saturday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, publicist Lori Jonas said.

The actor reportedly had Alzheimer's disease and had been in hospital since suffering serious organ failure earlier this month.

Bronson was famed for his tough guy films, especially the "Death Wish" series in which he played Paul Kersey, who was pushed over the edge by a brutal assault on his family in the original "Death Wish" in 1974.

In that film, Kersey prowled New York and meted out vigilante justice to wrongdoers, drawing critical condemnation but enthusiastic support from audiences.

Bronson told Reuters' Robert Basler in a 1985 interview that he knew what entertained him in a film, and it was not Charles Bronson.

"I am not a fan of myself."

In that interview, Bronson was promoting "Death Wish 3," a film he said was "nearly the same as the two Death Wishes that came before." "Death Wish 3" was filmed several months after New Yorker Bernard Goetz shot four men whom he said had accosted him on a subway and found himself dubbed the "Death Wish Vigilante" in the tabloids.

But Bronson says he had signed to do the picture "a year and a half before anybody heard of Bernard Goetz" and protested that he knew very little about the subway vigilante.

Bronson, whose original name was Charles Buchinski, was one of 15 children of a Lithuanian coal miner in Pennsylvania. He worked as a miner after graduating high school and it was only going into the army during World War Two that got him out of the mines. After the war he learned acting at the Pasadena Playhouse and his first film role was in 1950 playing a sailor in "You're in the Navy Now," starring Gary Cooper.

Bronson in 1972 was named the biggest box office star by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and in 1979 he received the Gold Star Award as the film industry's top international star.

In Italy, where Bronson shot many of his movies, he was called "Il Brutto"—"The Ugly One."

But his rugged appearance helped earn him applause in such films as "The Magnificent Seven" (1960), "The Great Escape" (1963) and "The Dirty Dozen" (1967).

His reputation as a quietly tough-talking hero was confirmed in such movies as "Mr. Majestyk" (1974) and the three "Death Wish" films.

"A dozen years or so ago, mine was the kind of face nobody wanted to see in the movies," he once said.

"At least, not the good guy's face. But times have changed. I seem to have the right face at the right time."

Frank Konisberg, who produced a Bronson film, said, "He has a mythic American quality that somehow shines through. He's a working class hero." *Reuters*



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Democracy icon Suu Kyi stages hunger strike–US



SUU KYI

WASHINGTON—The United States said Sunday that Burma's detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi had launched a hunger strike, and warned its foes in the country's junta they were responsible for her health.

Washington said it was "deeply concerned" for the Nobel laureate, in a bombshell announcement just a day after the new prime minister of Burma (Myanmar) laid out a "roadmap for democracy" greeted with intense skepticism in Rangoon.

"The United States has learned that Burma's pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, is on a hunger strike to protest her illegal detention by that country's military regime," said State Department deputy spokesperson Philip Reeker.

"This courageous leader of the National League for Democracy and proponent of non-violent political change, has placed herself at risk on many occasions in pursuit of democracy and respect for basic human rights in Burma," Reeker said.

"We are deeply concerned for her safety and well-being," he said, just two days after a tough new raft of US economic sanctions came into force aimed at pressuring the junta over Aung San Suu Kyi's detention.

"The Burmese authorities have full responsibility for her health, having placed her in so-called 'protective custody' since a May 30 premeditated attack on her convoy," Reeker said.

Aung San Suu Kyi has spent long periods under house arrest. Her latest detention in May came after an incident blamed by the United States and other critics of the Burma junta on armed "thugs" backed by the Yangon regime.

Reeker called for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release, but did not say how the United States had heard that she had launched a hunger strike.

The US embassy in Rangoon however maintains close contact with Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy which won a landslide election victory in 1990 never recognized by the government.

The US statement came just a day after Burma's new prime minister General Khin Nyunt announced a seven-point roadmap towards democracy including "free and fair" elections to be held under a new constitution. *AFP*



PIGEONS hover around the Gateway of India monument in Bombay Sept. 1. Animal lovers in India's financial capital were thrilled to see the pigeons return to the Gateway, where twin powerful bomb blasts last Monday saw 52 people dead and over 150 injured. REUTERS

2 men, woman charged for Bombay blasts

BOMBAY, India—Police on Monday arrested two men and a woman and charged them with the twin terrorist bombings that killed 52 people in India's financial hub last week, a police prosecutor said.

M.R. Raut, chief police prosecutor, said the three suspects were arrested under India's tough anti-terrorism law and would appear before a court later Monday.

The three have been charged with conspiracy and planting a bomb in the parking lot of the Gateway of India and illegally possessing explosives, Raut said.

Raut declined to give the names of the suspects, who could face the death penalty if found guilty.

About 150 people were injured when two taxis packed with explosives blew up within minutes of each other on Aug. 25 in Bombay, one at the Gateway of India arch—a colonial-era tourist attraction—and the other at a busy shopping complex.

The driver of the taxi used in the Gateway blast survived and told police he was hired by two men and a woman for a two-day sightseeing tour.

The Indian government has blamed the attacks on pro-Pakistan Muslim militants from Kashmir. Bombay police officers have said RDX, an explosive favored by Kashmiri separatist guerrillas, was used in both Bombay attacks.

Pakistan, India's rival and neighbor, condemned the attacks.

India accuses Islamic Pakistan of arming and funding Muslim militants who've been fighting since 1989 for Muslim-majority Kashmir's independence from predominantly Hindu India. More than 63,000 people have been killed in the insurgency.

Pakistan says it backs the rebels with ideology, but not weapons or money.

Security has been tight in India after the attacks. Police in the capital, New Delhi, said on Sunday that security forces prevented a "spectacular" attack there by a Pakistan-based militant group. *AP*

Libya increases payout for French airliner bombing

TRIPOLI/PARIS—Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi said on Sunday a deal had been struck to increase compensation for a 1989 French airliner bombing, allowing Libya to close the Lockerbie case and repair relations with the West.

A compensation dispute erupted after Britain acted to end UN sanctions on Libya when Tripoli agreed this month to pay $2.7 billion to families of 270 people killed in a 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie.

But France, a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, threatened to block the move unless Tripoli increased compensation to relatives of 170 people killed when a UTA airliner was blown up over the African state of Niger in 1989.

"The problem over the UTA case is over and the Lockerbie case is now behind us. We are opening a new page in our relations with the West," said Gaddafi, addressing his nation on the anniversary of a coup that brought him to power in 1969.

Though Libya has never admitted responsibility, it paid $34 million to France after a Paris court convicted six Libyans in absentia for the killings.

Gaddafi repeated Libya had no role in the Pan Am or UTA bombings. He said Libya was blamed for both due to disputes with the United States and France in the '70s and '80s.

An agreement would open the way for Britain to introduce a twice-delayed motion to end UN sanctions imposed over the Lockerbie bombing. London has said it aimed to do so this week. *Reuters*

2 US soldiers killed in Afghan fighting

KABUL—Two US soldiers died Sunday after a firefight in violence-wracked southeastern Afghanistan which also left four militants dead as the death toll from a week of fighting against suspected Taliban rose to 85, military officials.

The two were among three US soldiers wounded in the clash near the Pakistan border Sunday morning, the US-led military coalition said in a statement from its Bagram Air Base headquarters, 50 km north of Kabul.

"Two of the soldiers died of wounds received during the initial contact with enemy fighters northwest of Shkin, in Paktika province this morning," it said.

"The third soldier is in stable condition, pending medical evacuation to Bagram Air Base from a treatment facility at Salerno north of Shkin."

Four militants were also killed in the fighting near Shkin 220 km south of Kabul.

"The US forces were conducting a combat mission in the vicinity of a firebase near Shkin when the engagement occurred."

They called for reinforcements from Shkin firebase and two A-10 Thunderbolt ground attack aircraft were also sent to provide air support but did not fire. *AFP*

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Governors back GMA against coups

By Anselmo Roque, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*
and Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

CABANATUAN CITY—Speaking as one, the country's provincial governors vowed to fight any attempt to destabilize the government as they expressed their "unequivocal support" for President Macapagal-Arroyo and her efforts to unite the country.

Members of the League of Provinces of the Philippines passed a resolution supporting Ms Macapagal during their meeting last week in Metro Manila. Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III, executive vice president of the league, proposed the resolution.

Joson also called for the condemnation of destabilization efforts against the Macapagal administration, particularly the mutiny on July 27.

"The Oakwood incident should not be repeated," Joson said as he asked his fellow governors to unanimously pass and sign the resolution.

Joson said the failed mutiny triggered the slide of the peso's purchasing power and slowed the country's economic growth.

Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario, the league's president, supported Joson's proposal, saying that "only through national unity can the country move forward."

He said provincial governors nationwide share this belief.

He said local governments should be united in voicing their sentiments against any adventurism and should not tolerate it.

Stand

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado said provincial governors should take a stand against the adventurism of "some misguided elements" and dissuade them from pursuing destabilization efforts.

Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, vice president for Luzon, said the governors should support Ms Macapagal in her efforts to reduce "politicking" in the country and improve the lives of the people.

The resolution, the governors said, supports Ms Macapagal's "efforts to unite the nation, uphold, preserve and defend the Constitution."

It also supported the President in "blocking any attempt to derail the economic progress of our country."

Joson said the officers and members of the league also pledged that they would not be used as instruments to destabilize the government.

Just as the governors made the pledge, the President urged Filipinos to stay calm and vigilant and "thwart further attempts to destabilize our nation by the desperate and the few."

Speaking in Monday's centenary of Clark Air base, a former American military base-turned-investment hub, which she said stood "for democracy and human liberation," the President noted the occasion was a "good time to remind our people to cast away their nagging fears."

According to her, the energies must be refocused on a primary goal: economic progress and poverty eradication.

Sinister

The people and government should not be "sidetracked by the posturing and sinister attempts to grab power by the few and desperate," Ms Macapagal said without referring to any leader of the political opposition.

She assured that Malacañang was "out of the issue of political exposé."

The Senate inquiry into charges of corruption against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo starts this week.

"The Senate hearing is coming up and evidence will speak for itself," she said. "Let the truth prevail and the let the ax fall where it may."

The President rebuffed claims of instability in her administration, noting that these were "only noise on the surface."

In a centennial rite attended by American Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, Japanese Ambassador Kojiro Takano and Clark investors, she said "underneath our nation is secured in its moorings, upheld by constitutional order and driven by a strong spirit of enterprise that we see here in Clark Special Economic Zone."

She described the economy as "doing relatively well." The country's 4.5 percent gross national product for the year's second quarter was only surpassed by China and Malaysia.

Clark, she said, was a "great example" of Philippine competitiveness. Ricciardone, who spoke ahead of the President, said the United States and the Philippines share the same thrust of mutual prosperity.



'Smiling face' urged in place of Marcos bust

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—As long as it's a "smiling face," it doesn't matter whose likeness replaces the shattered Marcos bust.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon's suggestion is a "smiling face."

On its face, his suggestion during a Sunday press briefing here may seem tongue-in-cheek. Ibalois could instead build a new bust of a respected tribal chieftain or a revered local public figure, Gordon suggested.

"It's really up to your community. You know what to (replace the Marcos bust with) . . . as long as it is a happy face," he said.

But Gordon insisted that he was serious about replacing this "monument to hatred" with a more positive symbol, given the difficulties of drawing a targeted 2.6 million tourists toward the end of the year.

Gordon launched a new tourism recovery program that aims to cover for a 1.3-million tourist shortfall as of August. He was guest during Baguio's 94th charter day anniversary on Monday.

Gordon said the country survived the twin impact of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Sars) and terrorism, falling only by 10 to 30 percent in tourist revenues, compared to Singapore's 60 percent plunge in April and China's 90-percent drop in May.

Despite the October 2002 Bali bombings in Indonesia, the country still earned $1.87 billion (P97.65 billion) in 2002, Gordon said.

He said the new tourism recovery plan relies on a good reading of history to sell new Philippine historical and cultural tours, in new international packages that are backed by new direct flight negotiations. Baguio, he said, is key to these deals.

But Gordon stopped short of directing an immediate makeover of the 10-meter-high bust, a martial law relic that was bombed by New People's Army rebels on Dec. 29 last year.

The blast tore out the bust's forehead, the whole spread of its eyes and cheeks, and parts of its nose and lips.

But following the press conference, Gordon admitted to the INQUIRER that he did not favor any government initiative to resolve the fate of the bust.

Politicians, he said, had been too focused on raising "pantheons" rather than vital infrastructures that "people can actually use."

"Pantheons," he said, referred to high-profile facilities that merely tout a local politician's accomplishments.

The concrete bust was an extra feature of the Marcos Park, which was raised using the contributions of Marcos' supporters, Mayor Bernardo Vergara told the INQUIRER earlier.

'USUAL BUDGET'

No fresh funds for Mindanao

TACURONG CITY—Mindanao would not get fresh government funds this year, not even for inter-agency rehabilitation programs in war-torn areas, a Malacañang official said on Tuesday.

Virgilio Leyretana, deputy Presidential Assistant on Mindanao Development, told officials of the South-Central Mindanao Regional Development Council (RDC) during a meeting here, that current rehabilitation projects were being funded "with the usual budgetary provisions of government agencies asked to implement them."

He admitted there was an urgent need to rehabilitate war-torn areas like the Buliok Complex in Pagalungan, Maguindanao and Pikit, North Cotabato.

The government has earlier said it intended to pour in more development funds for Mindanao, which it projects as the country's food basket in its Medium-Term Development Program.

Mindanao's fund shortage was also being complicated by the withdrawal of foreign agencies from projects they have previously pledged to support.

According to the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) in Region XII, around $6 million in funds from the Asian Development Bank for the modernization of four Mindanao airports had been forfeited because of the snail-paced implementation of government projects.

Hadja Sittie Mariam Lim, NEDA Region XII director, said the amount would have modernized the airports of Butuan, Dipolog, Maguindanao and Tawi Tawi and those of Iloilo and Legaspi cities.

The lack of fresh funds for Mindanao has also prompted the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) to pursue a P2.5-billion loan program with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to expand the coverage of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (MMIP) and irrigate some 3,120 hectares of farms mostly in the Buliok Complex.

Noldin Oyod, NIA-MMIP project manager, said a new Overseas Development Assistance loan package could complement a downstream irrigation project in Buliok with social component projects such as farm-to-market roads, schools, cottage industry for women, and health centers in the rehabilitated areas.

Engineer Jocelyn Beda of the MMIP engineering section said proposing an MMIP Phase II expansion was timely. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Dengue stalks Bohol, kills 3 children

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The dreaded dengue fever has claimed the lives of three children in Bohol in the first three weeks of August, with 207 dengue cases reported since January.

The Provincial Health Office (PHO) identified the fatalities as Mark Lloyd Tagupa, one year old; Princess Lorence Basio, 2; and Marvie Asombrado, 5.

Tagupa died at a private hospital, Asombrado at a cooperative hospital while Basio died at the government-owned Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital.

According to PHO records, Tagupa and Asombrado were residents of Tagbilaran while Basio was a native of Maribojoc town.

The three cases were the first recorded deaths for the year attributed to the mosquito-borne disease.

Merlyn Nemenzo, PHO statistician, told the INQUIRER that there were no reported deaths last year.

With the three deaths, Nemenzo said the number of dengue cases in August has overtaken last year's total for the month.

"As of the third week, we already have 46 cases in August. Last year, there were only 45 cases for the entire month," Nemenzo added.

The 46 cases excluded the 22 cases for Tagbilaran that raised the total to 66 for the same period in the entire province.

The PHO figures revealed that dengue cases in the province for this year have already risen to 207. Of this total, 52 cases were monitored in Tagbilaran.

The same figures revealed that other towns with significant dengue cases were Panglao, 27; Baclayon, 20; and Maribojoc, 15.

In the month of July, reported dengue cases rose to 49. This was a sharp increase to the 29 for the month of June.

The PHO figures showed an erratic trend, starting off with 16 cases in January and increasing to 19 in February.

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FRONTLINE
An American soldier holds a machine gun at a training camp in Zamboanga City for Filipino soldiers. Americans recently finished providing Filipino soldiers training in an antiterrorism course held in camps in the city.

WOMEN AS COMMODITIES

Groups welcome ban on beauty tilts

BAGUIO CITY--A women's group here welcomed a proposal in the local Gender and Development (GAD) code that calls for the prohibition of beauty contests as the group picketed the annual Miss Baguio beauty pageant on Sunday night.

Members of the Igorota Foundation, a non-government organization based in the city, cited the proposal of the GAD code that "beauty contests which commodify, abuse, humiliate and treat women and men as objects of sexual exploitation shall be strictly prohibited in schools, communities and highways."

The proposal also noted that "programs which showcase women's talents and potentials in the context of indigenous Cordillera customs shall be given sufficient support by the government."

It said organizers of beauty contests violating the provision would be penalized in the form of cancellation of business permits, fine of P5,000 for business, educational or charity institutions or welfare organizations.

The proposed code was submitted recently by the foundation to Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, who heads the GAD program in the city government.

The INQUIRER learned that the proposal for the banning of beauty contest was submitted by a mother whose daughter was being eyed to join the beauty contest last year.

The suggestion was discussed during a consultation-workshop of women's organizations here in October last year.

The proposed GAD code submitted recently to Tabanda who is the head of GAD in the city government.

Vernie Yocogan Diano, secretary general of Innabuyog-Gabriela, said the city government should acknowledge the proposal to change the public's perception of women as "objects of sex and as objects for sale, entertainment and profit."

"We challenge the city government to implement the proposed GAD code to ban beauty contests. It is about time that they analyze how these contests commercialized some in the past years to promote tourism and to attract investments in Baguio," Diano told the INQUIRER.

The picketers by members of Innabuyog-Gabriela criticized the staging of the Ms. Baguio event. The protesters wore face paints and sashes bearing the different issues concerning women and local governance.

Tabanda, who attended the pageant night, said the proposed GAD code is still being reviewed as the city government finalizes the GAD plan.

"In fact, one of the reasons why I am here (in the pageant) is to see to it that women are not being commodified," Tabanda said.

"But if this (contest) will bring out the best in women, then it is okay. For me, commodification is using women for fund raising activities or selling ballots," she said.

Benedicto Alhambra, city tourism officer, said they are not using Baguio women to promote the city but to make them partners in tourism promotion. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gov't to promote humpback whale tours in Babuyan

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Tourism will soon offer a humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) tour along the Babuyan Islands at the northernmost tip of Luzon.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon on Sunday said the humpback whale tour would complement the whale shark (locally called *butanding*) tour in Donsol, Sorsogon, under the DOT's "Wild Over Whales (WOW)" package.

Gordon said the visit to the humpback whales' breeding grounds in the Babuyan Islands area off the shore of Cagayan would be coordinated with the World Wildlife Fund Philippines' humpback whale research and conservation project.

The WWF has been in the area since 1999 after its scientists discovered a population of the endangered species in the waters off Babuyan Islands.

Like the whale shark tour in Donsol, the humpback whale watching will be a high-end tour, Gordon said. The tour package in Donsol, for example, costs $1,000 and yet, foreign tourists are eager to see these gigantic sea mammals.

The problem with Babuyan, of course, is its remoteness. The Babuyan Islands are composed of five islands north of Luzon mainland. The nearest island, Camiguin, is four hours away by outrigger boat from Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

Although the five islands are inhabited, facilities are minimal. Phone lines and cell sites are unheard of and only a few of the settlers' communities have limited electricity supply.

But the WWF said the humpback whales are worth the hardship because the Philippines is not expected to be a breeding site for this endangered species.

It said only Japan and Hawaii were first thought to be within the sea mammals' migratory route.

Gordon said the whale shark could be viewed seven months a year. He even managed to swim beside a whale shark so huge a person can fit across its mouth, he told reporters.

But humpback whale watching may prove to be more "dramatic" because, he said, they produce a "song" or vocalization, which is unique for every group.

Cavite blames 'deaf' gov't for traffic

TAGAYTAY CITY—Cavite Gov. Erineo S. Maliksi blamed a "hearing-impaired national government" for the long-delayed projects that could have solved the appalling traffic problem in the province.

In his speech during the first Cavite traffic summit at the Tagaytay International Convention Center on Thursday, Maliksi said numerous proposed road projects in the province had not been promptly acted upon by past administrations.

The summit was attended by over 100 key officials from local government units, police authorities and business sector representatives in Cavite.

Maliksi also said they had been receiving numerous complaints from motorists regularly taking the Aguinaldo highway, leading to the Coastal Road—the primary entry and exit point of the province.

Maliksi noted that the province's ever-increasing population growth rate further aggravated the problem.

Cavite had an annual population growth rate of 6 percent, way past the national growth rate of 2.3 percent, he said.

But most of the people who are added to Cavite's population are "migrating labor force and middle income settlers," Maliksi added.

He further said that drastic economic growth and the establishment of numerous business enclaves have caused this "phenomenon."

Traffic experts from the National Center for Transportation Studies (NCTS) of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City said the province needs to have its major thoroughfares repaired and have new highways built.

Rene Val Teodoro of NCTS said new exit and entry points are urgently needed since there is very limited access to and from Cavite.

Sonny Aguja, executive director of the Cavite Traffic Management Office, admitted that upon conferring with Department of Public Works and Highways officials, the initial estimate for the projects may reach more than P350 million.

He said Sen. Manny Villar and some national government officials have expressed support for the projects.

Among those included in their plan is the immediate construction of an extension for the Coastal Road from Bacoor to Noveleta and the possible extension of the Light Railway Transit from Parañaque to Bacoor and Dasmariñas.

Aguja added that they also proposed the extension of the C5 road to the Coastal Road, the construction of a flyover in Pala-pala, Dasmariñas town and the development of alternate east-west routes connecting the provinces of Cavite and Laguna.

"But we're keeping our fingers crossed for the implementation of these long-term projects. Getting enough funding is not that easy. Up until now, the provincial government takes care of the road repair and improvement in Cavite," Aguja told the INQUIRER. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Port project opposed for fear of ecological ruin

SIBULAN, Negros Oriental—Some 200 residents here have supported town officials who opposed the construction of a P5-million rock causeway on the shore of Barangay Poblacion for fear of environmental destruction.

In a letter addressed to the different national and local government agencies and the media, the residents appealed that the project to be undertaken by Aomori Rapid Transport System Inc. should be set aside due to imminent danger it poses to the houses near the shoreline and to the environment.

Last week, the Sibulan municipal council voted 5-6 to oppose the project. The municipal council resolution also repudiated its 2002 resolution authorizing Sibulan Mayor Antonio Renacia to award the project and enter into a memorandum of agreement with Aomori.

Councilor James Fontelo, one of the staunch critics of the project, said that he and the other councilors who voted to scrap the undertaking have changed their minds after the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) claimed that the agreement signed by Renacia and the corporation was null and void.

Quoting Manuel Gorme, the Visayas area manager of the PPA, Fontelo said the agreement was null and void because it violates the charter of the PPA.

Fontelo also said the project is expected to cause traffic congestion, noise pollution and other forms of environmental degradation.

Councilor Dandy Concepcion, who favors the project, maintained that the agreement is still binding because it is only the court that can determine the validity or invalidity of the agreement.

Concepcion added that experts could properly address the environmental and other concerns raised by the opponents of the project. He added that Aomori has already secured an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the project.

Mayor Renacia said he will veto the municipal council's resolution, and will allow the project to push through because Aomori might sue the municipality for breach of contract.

Renacia said the project must go on because this has been the clamor of the people to improve the port services in the town, which will also improve the economic activities of the town.

Under the agreement, Aomori will construct the causeway to accommodate cargo barges to and from the Sibulan-Liloan, Cebu route. He added that the project is also in consonance with the government's nautical highway program, which encourages the putting up of roll-on, roll-off sea facilities.

Renecia said that as mayor, he should make difficult decisions "for the good of the greater number." *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

3 cops dismissed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Three rookie policemen had been summarily dismissed from the service for their alleged involvement in the illegal drugs trade. Senior Supt. Banjamin Apayart, Central Mindanao police deputy director, said aside from dismissal, the three policemen are also facing criminal charges in court. Apayart identified the three as PO2 Edmar Laguda and PO2 Eric Natividad, both members of the Central Mindanao police's Regional Mobile Group and a certain PO1 Ante of the Surallah police station in South Cotabato. Laguda and Natividad were arrested in a raid by police in a drug den in Barangay Apopong in February. Ante was arrested in a raid in his house that yielded several sachets of illegal drugs. The policemen were found positive for drugs, prompting the regional police office to file administrative charges against them.
Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Isabela bank theft

ILAGAN, Isabela—Armed men took away at least P600,000 from a bank in Delfin Albano town on Thursday night. Police said the suspects used an acetylene torch, a bolt cutter and a screwdriver in destroying the roof and vault of the Banco Magsaysay in Barangay San Antonio. The suspects also took away passbooks and other bank documents. Policemen said the suspects left two acetylene tanks, two flashlights, two pairs of jeans and a screwdriver in the bank premises.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Village chief held

BAGUIO CITY—Police arrested a barangay captain in Bangued, Abra, for possessing an unlicensed gun last week. Reports from the Cordillera police office said Alberto Balaoro, barangay captain of Macray in Bangued, was arrested in a checkpoint along the Abra-Kalinga road in Zone 7 in that town. Seized from him was a .38 cal. revolver with six bullets. Police also reported recovering four other unlicensed guns in separate operations in Bangued from Aug. 26 to 28. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

10 held for 'jueteng'

BAGUIO CITY—At least 10 suspected *jueteng* bet collectors and employees were arrested in a raid in Tuba, Benguet on Aug. 28. Cordillera police reports said policemen also recovered P2,303 worth of bets and bet sheets from the suspects when they were arrested in the house of one Marcelino dela Cruz in Barangay Poblacion, Tuba. Arrested were Rolando Mercado, Jose Perez, Jose Capili, Roberto Cruzat, Marcelino Gabriel, Nicanor Estonilo, Alex Ventura, Victor Campos, Jose Villona and Maria Luisa Magtibay
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Top gang leader nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The police last week said it arrested the second most wanted person in the Calabarzon region. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal said a police operation led to the apprehension of notorious gang leader Montano "Tano" Tolentino, 41, inside his house in Barangay Puting Lupa, Calamba City. Tolentino is said to be the second top leader of the Galicia-Tolentino syndicate operating in the region. The gang is involved in kidnapping, bank robbery, gun-for-hire, gun smuggling, drug peddling and other criminal activities. Police also recovered a .45 cal. pistol, a magazine, four AK-47 and 22 rounds of live ammunition. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

14 Chinese nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Bureau of Immigration and Deportation personnel, members of the 504th Police Provincial Mobile Group and the Naga City police arrested on Wednesday 14 Chinese nationals suspected of illegally staying in Bicol. Josephus T. Ojano, BID Bicol acting alien control officer, identified those arrested as Patrick John Reyes, Jessica Reyes, Chen Mei Fang, Chi Chung Cao, Hong Jocan, Chi Nene, Xu Kong Meng, Xu Jing Qiung, Fo Jin Jiang, Ke Nana, Hong Jocan, Cheng Peng Ju, Kai Peyue and Chang Xi Chao, all Chinese nationals. Two of the 14 arrested, Patrick John Reyes and Jessica Reyes, were released after showing their Philippine passports while the other 12 Chinese nationals were sent to BID Manila for proper disposition. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Drug personalities'

ROXAS CITY—The Provincial Anti-Illegal Drug Sub-Task Force has identified 163 "drug personalities" in this city's 53 barangays and the province's 16 towns as of January this year. Insp. Leo Batiles, task force chief, said drug personalities refer to persons who are either drug pushers or users, or both. Among the 16 towns, he said, Pontevedra had the most drug personalities with 14 pushers and nine users. Seven pushers and 46 users were identified in Roxas. The drug personalities were identified through intelligence reports submitted by police chiefs from different towns and by their respective barangay anti-illegal drug councils. *Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*



REFLECTION
Artist Joey "Pepe" Smith poses beside sculptures of Jesus on the cross and Mary at the foot of the Baguio Cathedral's steps.

E.V ESPIRITU-PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUR

CBCP head optimistic on peace in Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—The head of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) said he foresees the success of the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) should developments on the ground continue to get better.

"The CBCP has high hopes with regards to the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. I believed there is sincerity on both sides and I trust the competence of the panel of negotiators," CBCP president and Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said.

For more than a month now, no major skirmish had occurred between the military and the Moro rebels, which Quevedo said was "a clear indication that combatants would rather prefer to keep their guns tied than shot at each other."

But Quevedo said for the peace process to further move forward, there was a need for the formal peace talks to immediately resume.

He said the people could not wait any longer for peace to finally reign in Mindanao.

On Tuesday, the government-MILF technical committee on the cessation of hostilities would again meet here, but this time, to finalize earlier agreements about the implementation of a general truce.

Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, labeled the meeting as "the last leg of our journey before formal peace negotiations resume."

The peace process, which had been suspended after the military launched air and ground assaults on MILF-identified areas in the Buliok complex, Pikit, North Cotabato in February, has been revived with Malaysia acting as a third country mediator.

The United States had backed the peace negotiations and said it was willing to help restore peace in Mindanao.

"We hope to approve and come to an agreement on the implementing rules and regulations of the general cessation of hostilities in that meeting," said AFP vice chief of staff Gen. Rodolfo Garcia.

Garcia chairs the government ceasefire panel.

The Malaysian Embassy in Manila said that once the ceasefire mechanism was put in place, Kuala Lumpur would set the date and venue of the formal talks. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Sex harassment victim seeks swift justice

DAGUPAN CITY—A 31-year-old government employee who accused her former chief of sexual harassment is hoping that the court would speed up the resolution of the cases she filed more than a year ago.

The employee said she has full faith in the court but she is hoping that the court will speed up the hearing.

She said she was not after the compensation for her "harrowing experience" but she wanted to show others that even the poor and not highly educated women have the right to seek justice for being oppressed by their superiors.

The woman, who works at the Philippine Coconut Authority office in Sta. Barbara town, filed three cases of sexual harassment at the Sta. Barbara Municipal Trial Court and a count of act of sexual lasciviousness at the Binmaley MTC against a former PCA official on May 13, 2002.

She asked reporters not to identify her in their stories because "my neighbors might think what he (her superior) was spreading about me was true."

The PCA official got a "declaration" of one of the woman's neighbors that they disliked her because of her "indecent conduct." The official also called her "schizophrenic" and that her allegations were products of her "naughty mind."

The official was transferred to the PCA office in Metro Manila after five employees earlier filed cases of graft against him also in May 2002.

In a counter-affidavit, the PCA official denied sexually harassing the victim at any time or threatening to dismiss her if she would not give in to his sexual desires.

"I do not need her for my ecstasy. My wife would be very sufficient for my needs. She is more personable and good looking than (the PCA employee) in all respects. I am a very simple man. I do not smoke. I do not drink. I am a God-fearing and religious man," the official said.

The PCA employee said she kept her silence for a long time to save her job since she was the main family breadwinner.

The woman said the harassment started when her husband's contract with the PCA was terminated in 1999.

"On Aug. 25, 1999, he (the PCA official) called me to his office and told me to masturbate him. I was so shocked and I immediately ran out of the office," she said.

She also said there were two occasions (on May 25, 2001 and Aug. 2, 2001) while they were traveling that the PCA official kissed and embraced her. She said the official stopped only when she started to cry.

During the Aug. 2, 2001 incident on their way to a PCA laboratory extension in San Fernando City, the woman said the official stopped the vehicle and told her to masturbate him.

"I was trembling and crying, and he stopped. He even told me (that we should) check in at a motel along the way, but I said no," she said.

The victim earlier filed an administrative complaint for sexual harassment against the officials with the PCA, which the PCA regulation and litigation division's lawyer, Armina Magbitang-Gatdula, recommended for investigation. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Dumaguete talks in street lingo to solve traffic jam

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—If you want to reach out to the masses, talk in their language.

This was the approach of Councilor Samuel Dicen in trying to sell a controversial coding scheme to tricycle drivers that would prohibit drivers from plying their route for one day a week, similar to the coding scheme adopted for Metro Manila vehicles.

For Dicen, prohibiting tricycle drivers from doing business for one day per week by way of their sidecar numbers would mean a reduction of 500 tricycles each day and would contribute to the decongestion of traffic.

Under the proposal, tricycles with plate numbers ending in 1 and 2 will not be allowed to take passengers on Mondays. Three and 4 on Tuesdays, 5 and 6 on Wednesdays, 7 and 8 on Thursdays and 9 and 0 on Fridays.

"I have thought about the advantages and disadvantages and all I could think of are advantages. There are no disadvantages in this plan," Dicen told the city council and tricycle drivers.

Dicen said drivers will have a rest day and their income will even increase because there would be fewer competitors in the streets.

"*Kung ato ning mina-ison*, (If we use the corn farmer's analogy), there will be fewer drivers in the streets while the number of passengers will not be reduced. That will mean more income for the tricycle drivers," Dicen said.

But the tricycle drivers who attended the city council session and public hearing responded with their own "bibingka" (rice cake) analogy:

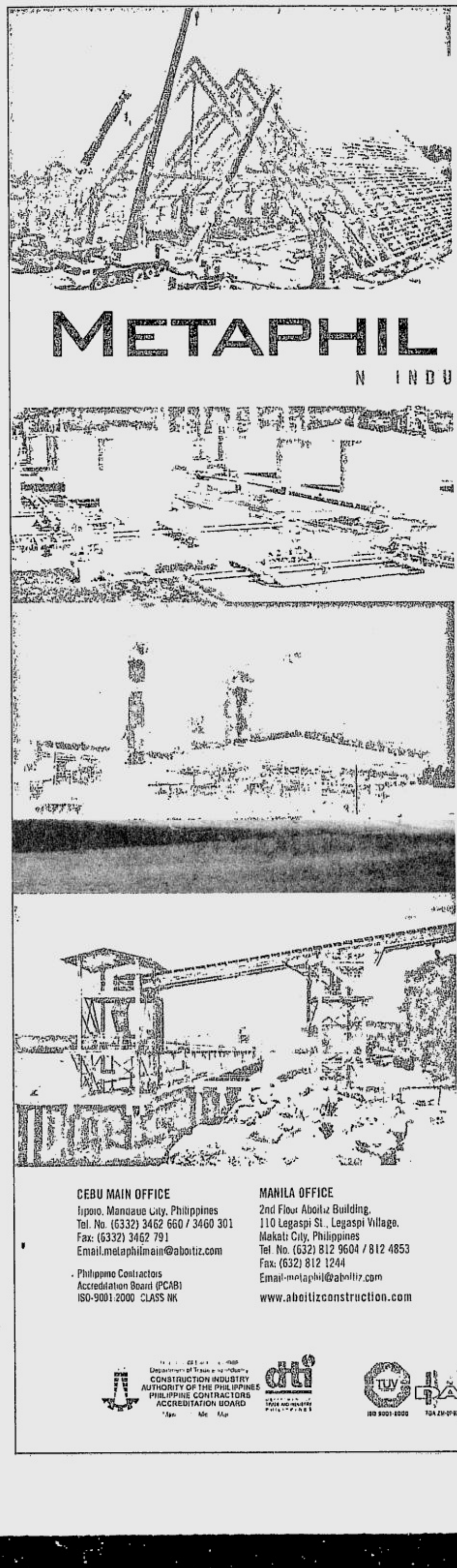
"If there are fewer people who will eat the bibingka, there will be bigger slices," said Rolando Anadon of the Dumaguete Banilad-Motong Drivers' Association (DUBAMODA), "but that will mean that there will be others who will go hungry and we cannot allow that!"

The drivers also assailed the logic of Dicen's measure, saying it is not a guarantee that traffic congestion will be solved. "Why blame the tricycle drivers for the traffic mess? Why deprive us of our livelihood? If the roads are narrow, is that the fault of the tricycle drivers?" Anadon said.

Another driver, Edilberto Macapanas, also suggested that Dicen would cite studies next time showing the pollution levels in Dumaguete and how much of that comes from tricycles.

"Where is the pollution coming from? What is the ratio of pollution in comparison with the private vehicles?" Macapanas asked in fluent English.

This matter is again scheduled for this week's session.



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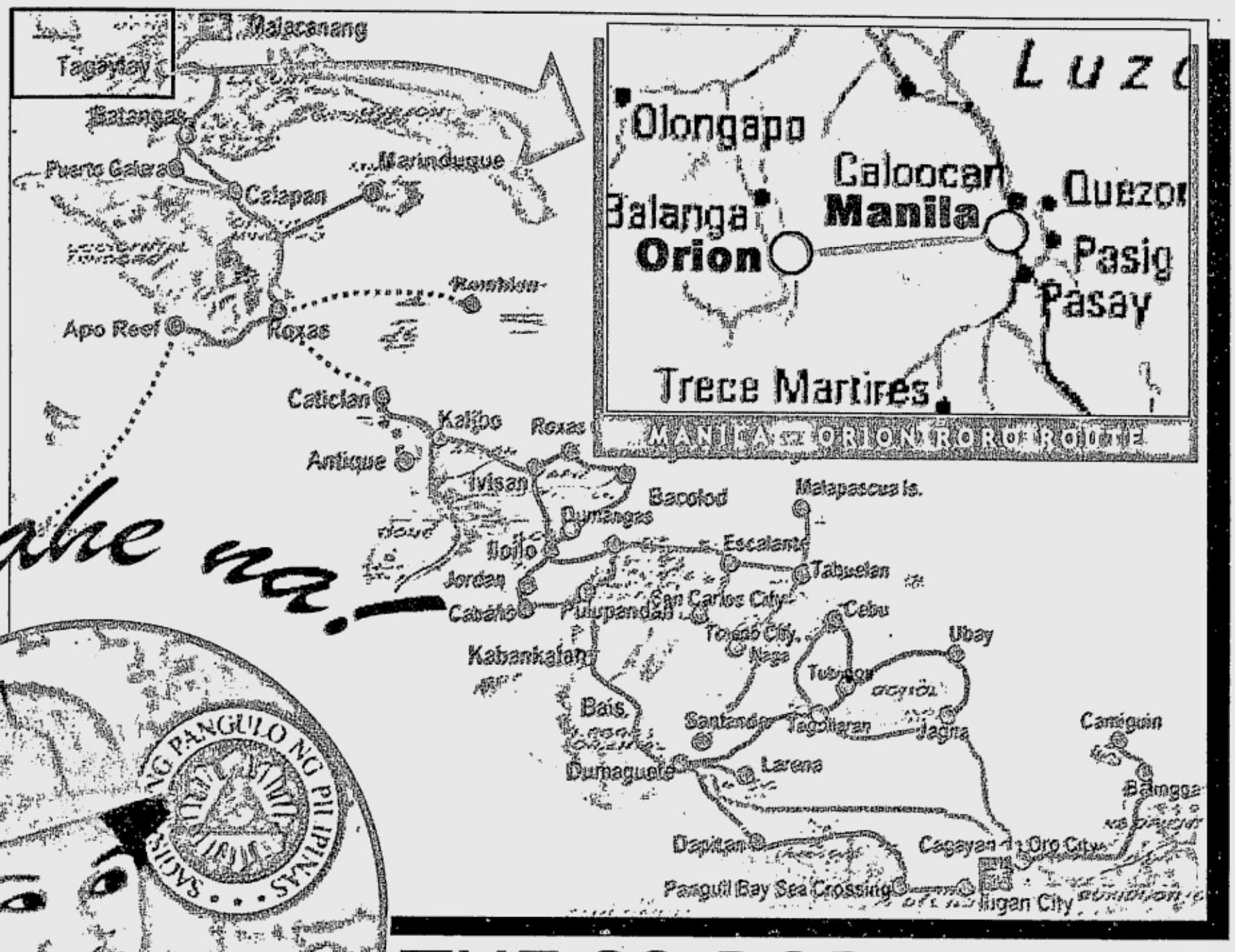
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STRONG REPUBLIC NAUTICAL HIGHWAY

Ang biyaheng Maynila hanggang Bataan, bukas na. Maginhawa na, Matipid pa!

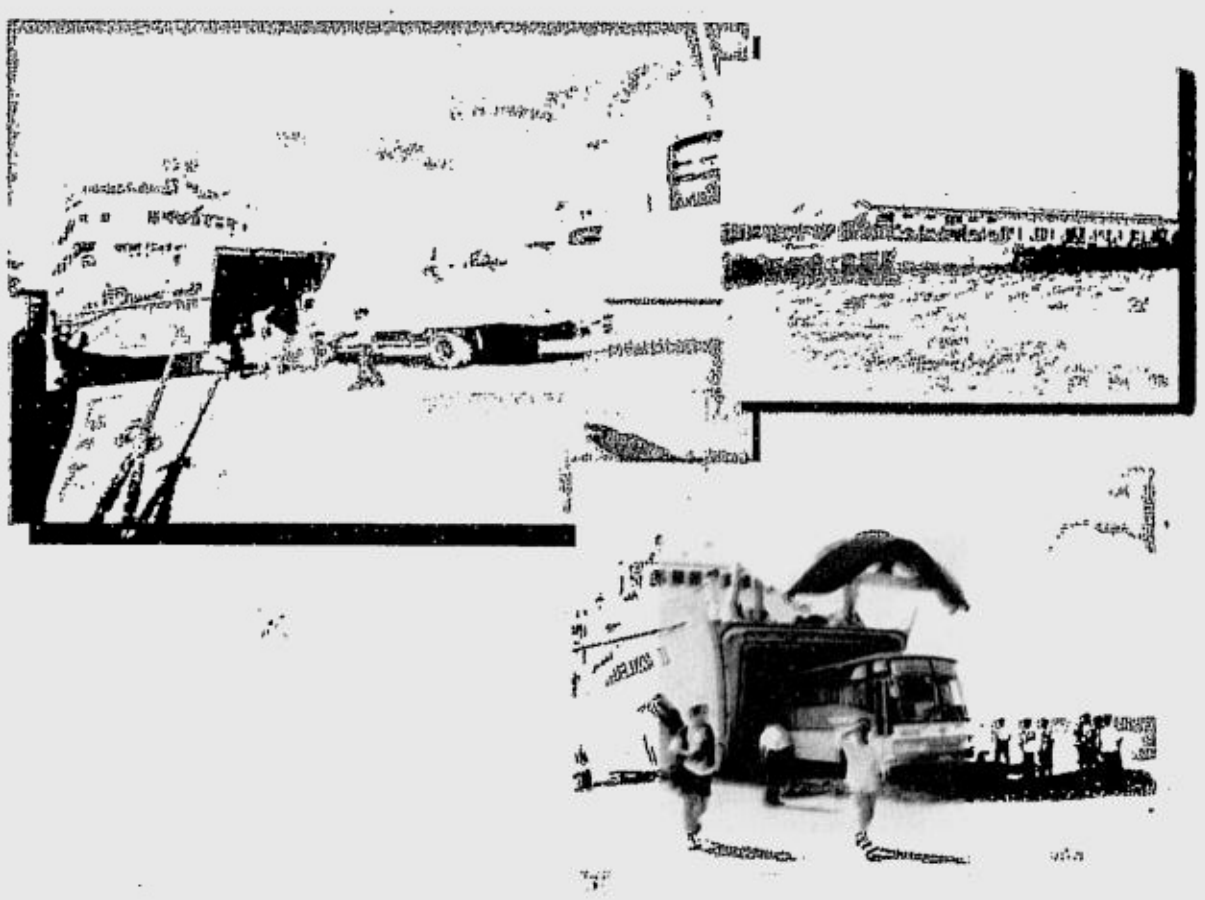


Biyahe na.



THE 22 PORT LINKS

"Transportasyong pandagat na maginhawa at mabilis. Pamprodukto at panturista. Kaya Luzon hanggang Mindanao, isang sakay na lang.



ROLLING CARGO RATES: Manila-Orion 24 n.m.
CATEGORY BY LANE METER AND VEHICLE TYPE:

Above 2-3 LANE METERS (LM)	
2.08 LM – Motorcycle Motorcycle with side car Bicycle	₱ 207.00 314.00 55.00 77.00
Above 3-4 LANE METERS (LM)	
3.15 – Mazda/Volkswagen/Datsun Car Small Trailer	626.00 626.00
3.35 – Forklift (less than 5 tonnes)	6,275.00
3.53 – Jeep (Owner Type)	730.00
Above 4-5 LANE METERS (LM)	
Cars/Sedan	474.00
4.07 – Crane without Boom	1,475.00
4.15 – Mini Van (Fiesta Tamaraw)	626.00
4.17 – Dodge Toyota Corolla/Crown	626.00
4.4 – Jeepney (Pulipas B-14)	626.00
4.48 – Isuzu KB, Nissan Patrol, Dodge, LandRover	626.00
4.63 – Hi-Ace	626.00
4.7 – Heavy Car – Mercedez Benz/Ford, Cortina	626.00
4.72 – Toyota Coaster	626.00
4.96 – Pick-up (Toyota Hi-Lux, Datsun)	726.00
4.05 – Truck (4 wheeler)	726.00
Above 5-6 LANE METERS (LM)	
5.2 – Big Road Roller	930.00
5.3 – Small bulldozer	930.00
5.83 – Truck (6 wheeler prime mover)	930.00
5.95 – Light van (4 wheeler)	930.00
Above 6-7 LANE METERS (LM)	
6.36 – Payloader Backhoe w/o canopy 6.49 – Jeepney (Pulipas Cap 29) 6.56 – Big bulldozer 6.815 – Genset (Less 30% heavy equipment rate)	1,000.00
Above 7-8 LANE METERS (LM)	
7.25 – Truck (Prime Mover – 10 wheeler)	3,807.00
7.85 – Gruen/heavy equipment on piggyback on trailer 8 – Jeep Mini Cruiser	7,750.00
Above 8-9 LANE METERS (LM)	
8.415 – Truck (10 wheeler short chassis) 8.89 – Dumptruck (10 wheeler) 9 – Minibus	3,807.00 3,807.00
Above 9-10 LANE METERS (LM)	
9.25 – 20 ft containers w/out load 19.40 Full load 9.35 – crane with boom (B-18) 9.47 – Dumptruck (12 wheeler)	25,540.00
Above 10-11 LANE METERS (LM)	
10.415 – Truck (6 wheeler short) 10 – Ship bus	1,200.00 3,807.00

Above 11-12 LANE METERS (LM)	
11.895 – Truck (6 wheeler)	2,812.00
11.975 – Truck (6 wheeler long)	2,812.00
11.98 – Truck (12 wheeler)	4,830.00
11.99 – Truck (10 wheeler long chassis)	3,807.00
Above 12 LANE METERS (LM)	
FORKLIFT (5 TONNER DOWN)	2,400.00
FORKLIFT (5 TONNER UP)	4,000.00
BULLDOZER (B-18)-(D65)	25,540.00
BULLDOZER (D-75)	17,880.00
GRADER	7,915.00
PAYLOADER (B-18)	17,880.00
PAYLOADER (SMALL)	14,300.00
TRAILER W/PRIME MOVER LOAD	7,915.00
TRAILER W/PRIME MOVER W/OUT	4,000.00
LOAD TRAILER W/OUT PRIME MOVER W/OUT LOAD	11,750.00
PRIME MOVER ONLY	1,700.00
TRAILER W/ E MOVER W/ CONTAINER LOAD 20-40	11,750.00
CRANE (B-18) W/ BOOM	25,540.00
CRANE (B-18) W/OUT BOOM	17,880.00
CRANE (SMALL) W/ BOOM	17,880.00
CRANE (SMALL) W/OUT BOOM	12,260.00
EXCAVATOR (B-18)	17,880.00
EXCAVATOR (SMALL)	11,300.00
MIXER TRUCK (B-18)	7,915.00
MIXER TRUCK (SMALL)	4,000.00
ROAD ROLLER 5 TONS BELOW	2,400.00
FARM TRACTOR 5 TONS ABOVE	3,240.00
PASSENGER RATES:	110.00

SCHEDULE OF TRIPS STARTING SEPTEMBER 2, 2003
Manila (Pier 15, South Harbor) – Orion, Bataan & vice versa

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
ORION - 5:30 A.M.	MANILA - 8:00 A.M.
MANILA - 5:30 P.M.	ORION - 8:00 P.M.

(Synchronized with the Truck Ban)

Name of Ship	MV "Mabuhay Sea"
Operator	St. Christopher Shipping Corp.
Contact Numbers	775-0641 to 42, 7750489
Passenger Capacity	350 Passengers
Cargo Capacity	20 cars or 5 buses + 4 cars or 5 6m trailers

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Lacson bares more Jose Pidal accounts

From page A1

tious person."

"Why? Corruption at the top. *Kurakot* by example," Lacson said in his speech titled "The Incredible Hulk Part II, Mr. Jose Pidal, *Alam ba ni* Mrs. *itoh*."

Lacson said that Arroyo must come and appear before the three Senate committees looking into the Jose Pidal accounts "without condition, without hesitation."

Lacson said his erstwhile star witness Eugenio Mahusay Jr., had provided his camp with documents to "prove his story of corruption" at the LTA Building, the office of the First Gentleman on Perea Street in Makati City.

Among the documents that Mahusay had given the Lacson camp were bank account statements, checks, pictures, letters and a diary. The senator said his camp found corroborating documents.

Lacson presented all these as he disclosed that Arroyo owned seven more bank accounts at five banks containing a total of P128 million as of July. These were on top of the five bank accounts of Arroyo under the names of Jose Pidal, Victoria Toh, Thomas Toh, Kelvin Tan and the Lualhati Foundation.

Lacson asked Arroyo whether the President was aware of the seven bank accounts, two of which were joint accounts of Jose Pidal and Victoria Toh.

The bank accounts of Jose Pidal and Vicky Toh are at the Philam Savings Bank (Account No. 001101-02084-2 with P25.7 million) and Union Bank (0073-001918-4, P23.5 million).

The other bank accounts are under the name of Jose Pidal (BPI Family Bank-Main, Account No. 6615-00497-7, P25.3 million); Vicky Toh (Banco de Oro, 00218008731, P19.5 million and Banco Filipino, 11043-000684-2, P16.3 million), Kelvin Tan (Allied Banking Corp., 003461-00357-3, P9.6 million) and Thomas Toh (Metro Bank and Trust, 007-431-00376-9, P8. 2 million).

Lacson said money remitted to two Jose Pidal accounts came from Western Union, Hong Kong (0905003-641-77-58, P2.8 million); the International Commercial Bank of China, Hong Kong account of a certain Ricardo Medrano (56102-000494-2, P2.6 million and P1.8 million); Western Union-Hong Kong account of a certain Luis Abelino Corosco (095007-288003-16, P2.5 million); Bank of East Asia, Hong Kong account of Romeo Yulo (040641266-8, P3.3 million); Bank of East Asia, Hong Kong (00894003722-1, P2.75 million); and International Commercial Bank of Asia account of John Telimco (P2.8 million).

Lacson mentioned Vicky Toh's active participation in preparing the checks for Arroyo.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, the senator showed a copy of a Kelvin Tan check amounting to P8 million that was issued to a Jose Pidal account.

Lacson then compared the word "only" written in the Tan check with the word "only" in a letter that was allegedly written by Toh to Arroyo.

The senator said Tan pre-signed the check while Toh "filled in the blanks."

Incidentally, Toh's letter, which Lacson read in his speech, hinted at Toh's romantic involvement with Arroyo.

"Just writing you a short note to say that I'll be missing you. My ONLY wish is that you take care of yourself. I can't help worrying about you," Toh's letter to Arroyo said.

The senator dismissed the claim of the First Gentleman's brother Ignacio Arroyo that he was the real Jose Pidal, saying that the latter was not wealthy enough to be the owner of the multimillion-peso bank accounts.

Lacson reminded that the younger brother of Arroyo was the same "fall guy" who claimed ownership of two buildings in San Francisco, California, which were initially alleged to be owned by the Arroyo couple.

Ignacio Arroyo is not financially capable to be Jose Pidal as shown by the income tax payments he made from 1996 to 1999, according to Lacson.

Lacson also hit Arroyo for the "lies" that have come out in recent days, which included the departure of Mahusay from his camp and the Philippine National Police's findings on the handwriting of Arroyo and Pidal.

Lacson said that Housing Secretary Mike Defensor and Malacañang were guilty of obstruction of justice when he and Mahusay's brothers took Eugenio Mahusay from the senator's men.

Lacson noted that the Palace used two presidential helicopters and a convoy of Presidential Security Guard vehicles to "rescue" Mahusay from "two unarmed civilians."

He said it was also not true that Mahusay was held for two months as alleged by his brothers because Mahusay was with his family at Alona Tropical Resort Hotel on a beach on Panglao island in Bohol on Aug.10-13.

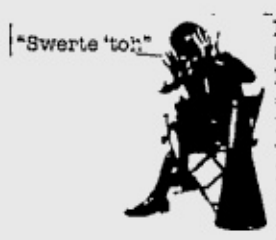
Lacson also said the PNP Crime Laboratory erred when it cleared Arroyo because Arroyo's letters "s" and "e" were similar to Pidal's signature. Likewise, he said the PNP compared dissimilar letters in the signatures, noting that it was like comparing a cow with a pig.

Senators did not interpellate Lacson. They instead referred the speech to the three committees looking into Lacson's charges.



For millions of Filipinos, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is their only hope for a jackpot in life.

Last February 28, guess who got P1.350 Million from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes? (And he did not even have to buy a lotto ticket!)



Philippine Charity Sweepstakes' Land Bank Check #0061283,dated February 28, 2003 worth P1,350,000.00 ended up in the account of Jose Pidal. **Bakit?!!!**

Ahh...Mr.Jose Pidal, tingin namin alam na ni Mrs. itoh!
(PCSO is directly under the Office of the President)



OK ka talaga, Jose Pidal!

An agency established by law for charitable purposes,and directly under the Office of the President, issues a check that finds its way into the account of a fictitious person. **Bakit?!!**

POWERPOINT presentation of Lacson on how public PCSO money ended up in a private Jose Pidal account.



LACSON at the Senate: Corruption at the top is the issue. JESS YUSON

Iggy offers special power of attorney to Senate

From page A1

that Lacson mentioned were either outright fabrications or were transactions that were unknown to the First Gentleman or to his younger brother Ignacio.

Landbank check

The lawyer said Lacson was lying when he alleged that a P1.35-million check from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office had allegedly been deposited in an account of Jose Pidal.

"Our information is that the Landbank check with the number cited by Senator Lacson in his speech was received by a lotto winner, and the amount was only P23,000. This is just one example of the distorted and fabricated evidence presented by the senator."

Malicious propaganda

Santos said Lacson's latest speech "was a masterpiece in malicious propaganda tailored at wrecking a family."

"The malice in the senator's speech was breathtaking. Our nation is diminished by the spectacle of the Senate being used by Mr. Lacson to peddle his flimsy and fabricated evidence that has only one objective: to destroy the reputation and family of Atty. Arroyo."

Santos said the First Gentleman flatly denied he had links to the new accounts enumerated by Lacson.

"We do not know whether or not these accounts exist, or if the transactions from the international banks actually came through. What we do know for sure, is that this latest litany has nothing to do with the First Gentleman," he said.

In Malacañang, the President's spokesperson declined to answer Lacson's recurring question in his second privileged speech against the First Gentleman: "Mr. Jose Pidal, *alam ba ni* Mrs. *itoh*?"

Bunye

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, who met with members of the Malacañang Press Corps close to an hour after Lacson wrapped up his speech, merely smiled and backed away when confronted with Lacson's question.

Bunye focused on the PCSO check that directly concerned the President, sidestepping the Jose Pidal accounts, the First Gentleman's undisclosed assets and his alleged joint bank accounts with his personal secretary Victoria Toh.

The President is supposed to sign all PCSO checks amounting to more than P100,000.

Only reference

"This is the only reference to the President in Senator Lacson's speech," Bunye said of the PCSO check. "The alleged PCSO matter can be cleared up routinely as soon as the proper Senate summons are received."

On Lacson's accusation that Malacañang used government resources to get hold of Lacson's star witness Eugenio Mahusay, Bunye reiterated that he did not have a hand in the "rescue" of Mahusay. "We were just there to facilitate the press conference."

Assets

On the conjugal property of the First Couple, which was not disclosed in the President's statements of assets and liabilities, Bunye said this would be cleared up in due time.

"All government records are open to the public, unless classified for reasons of national security, and these can be delivered to the Senate upon request. Transparency is a standing rule in the Office of the President and we strictly adhere to it," Bunye said in a prepared statement.

Asked about the alleged affair between the First Gentleman and Victoria Toh, Bunye said: "The President has already asked the First Gentleman to answer the issues leveled against him."

The lawyers of Thomas Toh, Vicky Toh and Kelvin Tan also denied the existence of the bank accounts mentioned by Lacson.

Lawyers Gelacio C. Mamaril and Roberto B. Arca said these accounts were fabricated to malign and put in bad light the names of their clients.

To belie the claims of Lacson, Mamaril and Arca filed a libel suit against Lacson in Manila.

Solons find claim hard to believe

From page A1

"I have a lot of questions. Why did he not talk about it early on in the first place? This is important.

Also, why did he not use his real name?" asked administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay.

Opposition Sen. John Osmeña wryly described Ignacio as a very "kind brother" for taking up the cudgels for the First Gentleman.

"Ignacito, as we call him in Bacolod, (was) the one who took claim of the ownership of the (Arroyo) apartments in San Francisco. Now, he is doing the same over (the Jose Pidal accounts). So *tumulong na naman. Mabait na kapatid* (He's helping out again)," said Osmeña.

However, Osmeña admitted that Ignacio came from a wealthy clan in Bacolod. "The Arroyos are really rich. Ignacio's mother is a Tuason ... a rich (landlady)."

Osmeña said the Tuasons and the Arroyos owned a sugar plantation in the province.

Asked about the repercussions of Ignacio's claim, he said: "We should not forget that we are talking here of the public. We're not really talking of a case that is filed before a judge. Standards of proof (in the Senate investigation) are every loose."

The effect of the Lacson expose would be felt during the 2004 presidential elections, he said, "not in this Senate investigation."

Waiver

Lacson's congressional allies challenged "Iggy" Arroyo to open all his bank accounts to public scrutiny.

Rep. Gilbert Remulla (LDP, Cavite) and Minority Leader Carlos Padilla (LDP, Nueva Vizcaya) said in a joint press conference that Arroyo should now waive his right to banking secrecy to determine whether or not he is covering up for his older brother.

"Iggy Arroyo's admission that he is Jose Pidal has raised more questions rather than answers," Remulla said.

He noted that while Arroyo claimed to have closed the Jose Pidal account at the Union Bank Peria Branch in Makati in 2001, the opposition has evidence that there had been transactions under the same account name as late as July 2003.

Remulla also said that there are other "live Jose Pidal accounts in other banks" that Arroyo must explain.

Padilla said Arroyo should explain why there had been recent transactions under the Jose Pidal name even though the account was supposedly closed in 2001.

"It appears then that there are two Jose Pidals," Padilla said.

Padilla and other members of the House minority bloc earlier offered a P1 million reward to anyone who can satisfactorily prove that he was Jose Pidal.

Padilla said the younger Arroyo must undergo "some tests" by minority congressmen if he wants to claim the reward.

"We'll give it to him if he proves he's the real Jose Pidal," Padilla said.

Penniless

Deposed President Joseph Estrada belittled the younger Arroyo's financial capability.

"*Wala ka-pera-pera yan* (He is penniless)."

Estrada said he had learned that the young Arroyo, who is based in Bacolod, is known to have little money, along with the Tuasons.

"*Bankarote ang mga Tuason* (The Tuasons are bankrupt)," Estrada told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Crispin Remulla, spokesperson of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), yesterday said he also learned from a Bureau of Internal Revenue official that the young Arroyo declared an income of only P110,000 in 1990.

"Everyone in Bacolod knows he was living a miserable life before (President Macapagal-Arroyo) came to power," he said in a telephone interview.

According to him, the attempt to make Ignacio Arroyo the fall guy is "incredulous" as it is futile. "You cannot solve one mistake with another," Remulla said.

With reports from Armand Nocum and Alcuin Papa

Not all aliases illegal . . .

From page A1

quired through illegal or unauthorized means.

The Amla makes more specific a longstanding provision in the Revised Penal Code that forbids a person from using a name other than his real name if his purpose is to conceal a crime, evade the execution of a judgment, or cause damage.

To be held liable for the crime of "using a fictitious name," it is essential that the false name be used publicly or represented to others as the true name of the person it is supposed to identify.

Public interest

The Supreme Court defines a fictitious name as "any other name that a person publicly applies to himself without authority of law." Thus, an applicant for a Philippine passport who writes in the application form a name other than what appears in his birth certificate could find himself in serious legal trouble.

The "damage" referred to in the law relates to a harm that affects the public in general, not a specific person or party. In the case of a passport applicant who uses a false name, his act impairs the integrity of the passport as an internationally recognized means of truthfully establishing the identity and nationality of its holder.

If a private party is injured as a result of the use of a false name, the crime committed is swindling or estafa.

The penalty for using fictitious names is imprisonment from one month to six months and a fine of P500.

Allowed aliases

However, aliases are allowed if they are used as pseudonym for literary, cinema, television, radio or other entertainment purposes and in athletic events where the use of pseudonym is an accepted practice.

Often, when the pseudonym, pen name or stage name has gained public acceptance and recognition, the personalities concerned get court approval to replace their original names with the names that they have been identified with by the public.

Also allowed to use aliases are those who have applied with the court, and were granted, permission to use a substitute name. Similar to a petition for a change of name, the approved alias is recorded in the birth certificate of the requesting party.

In both cases, however, the law requires the person using a pseudonym or judicially approved alias to use his original name and other name whenever he signs or executes public and private documents. This requirement is aimed at ensuring that the real identity of the person who has more than one name is disclosed to the third party he does business with.

GMA vows to step up reforms ...

From page A1

ist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

Ms Macapagal said good management and sound military justice would address some of the causes of dissatisfaction.

"We are already moving logistics to the field through the prudent use of sound administrative tools and procedures," she said. "Together with the leadership of the Armed Forces, we are going to mop up endemic corruption."

Ms Macapagal said she would press the polices and reforms initiated of Reyes, a former AFP chief of staff, whom the mutinous officers accused of masterminding two deadly bombings in Mindanao and micromanaging the military.

The junior officers, who are facing coup charges in civil and military courts, also complained of widespread corruption in the AFP.

Ms Macapagal said she expected the next defense secretary to follow through on her efforts to step up reforms in the military.

Next defense chief

In a radio interview, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal was carefully going over the recommendations of various sectors on who should head the defense department.

Among those mentioned as Reyes' possible successor are former President Fidel V. Ramos, former Defense Secretaries Renato de Villa and Eduardo Ermita, Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Rodolfo Biazon, and Representatives Prospero Pichay Jr. and Tomas Dumpit.

Ramos, who served as AFP chief of staff and defense secretary during the Aquino administration, said he was not interested.

"Thank you, but once is enough," Ramos told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport shortly before he left for Australia for a speaking engagement.

"Just allow me to perform my new role as a private citizen and be a salesman of our bellowed country, which has many advantages that many countries in the world will not know about unless someone like me go out and tell them about it," he added.

Besides, Ramos added, his wife Amelita was vehemently opposed to the idea of him going back to the defense department. "Over my dead body," he quoted the former first lady as saying.

Asked on his recommendation as defense secretary, Ramos named presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita.

"(Ermita) has the experience in the military, legislature and in other political fields, such as the peace process. He is noted for his patriotism and loyalty," Ramos said.

Other candidates

Ermita, De Villa and Dumpit—all members of the Philippine Military Class of 1957—are among those being considered as Reyes' replacement, according to a Palace source.

"Dumpit is the dark horse in this three-cornered, gentlemen's race among mistahs," the source said.

Dumpit, who belongs to the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., is currently on his second term as congressman representing La Union. He retired from the military as a major general, having commanded, among others, the now defunct Philippine Constabulary Metropolitan Command (Metrocom).

De Villa, who served as AFP chief of staff before becoming defense secretary, is currently President Macapagal's adviser for strategic concerns.

In a radio interview, Biazon said he could better serve the military by pushing for legislation instituting reforms in the military and increasing the benefits of soldiers.

He instead recommended De Villa and Ermita for the top defense post.

In a statement, Rep. Crispin Beltran (Bayan Muna) said that the Reyes' replacement should have no record of corruption or human rights violations.

"The position should be given to a civilian and preferably a civilian with a strong background in human rights work and international humanitarian law," Beltran said, noting that defense secretaries had "through the decades become associated with warmongering and hardline opposition to peace negotiations."

For his part, Reyes said he had advised Ms Macapagal to pick somebody with the "proper credentials."

"I don't want stereotyping; I don't want labeling. It's too presumptuous to say that a military official is not fit or a civilian is fit, or vice versa." Reyes told reporters.

"A civilian can serve the post if he's good; a military man can serve the post if he's good. So it's better to take it on a case-to-case basis," he added. *Reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Carlito Pablo, TJ Burgonio, Jerome Aning and AP*



EX-DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes enjoys civilian life with wife Teresita and granddaughter Andrea. JOAN BONDOC



"YOU wonder at the thrill of taking care of your grandchild." JOAN BONDOC

Resignation ...

From page A1

Three days after stepping down from his post, the 58-year-old Reyes told reporters he was looking at two alternatives, neither of which was a remote possibility only six weeks ago: renting an apartment, or going back to his mom's.

Whichever of the two the family chose, he said yesterday, would "not be a problem with me."

It will be a temporary arrangement, anyway—only until his controversial P10-million "mansion" in a military housing area is ready for occupancy.

"We have started looking for an apartment decent enough for the family," Reyes' low-profile wife Teresita said during the brief exchange with media men at their spacious bungalow in Aguinaldo. They have five sons, four of them unmarried.

Reyes could not say when his family was to pack up and go, but his wife admitted they had asked to stay a little longer.

Ms Reyes said that the house being built was not a mansion at all, and in fact had only four rooms, including the guest quarters. "It only looks large because it has high ceilings," she said.

Shortly after the failed July 27 mutiny, the media reported the ongoing construction at the AFP Officers' Village Association Inc. (AFPOBAI) in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

The reports prompted a government lifestyle check on Reyes, who in turn submitted documents to the Philippine Anti-Graft Commission claiming he had taken out a loan to build the house. "I welcome the investigation," he said.

Reyes hosted lunch yesterday for some 50 security officers who had been detailed with his office, to thank them for their "loyal service to the defense department and the country."

He told them: "I'm proud to have worked with you. I wish you all the luck. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Reyes said he would reject the top public works post should it be offered to him, as rumored. Citing fresh criticisms against him, he declined to discuss any future government posting.

Meanwhile, he was "enjoying civilian life," he said, as though to set it apart from the the civilian post he just left behind, which must have felt like a military job to the former soldier that he was.

Maybe he meant "religious life"? Since he resigned Friday afternoon, Reyes was proud to declare, he had been doing "some apostolic work," including taking care of his granddaughter, Andrea, his son Angelito's daughter.

But this is a pleasure not limited to the pious or, for that matter, to civilians or the military.

He explained: "You wonder at the thrill of taking care of your grandchild; this is what I call apostolic work. It's always exciting because when you were a father, you missed a lot of happy times with your children."

Ah, he meant family life. He has cause to worry then; every family needs a decent home. Ask any soldier.

Mike's brother claims he is Jose Pidal

From page A1

name and submitting the signatures to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory at around 9:30 a.m. yesterday.

He asked PNP document experts to compare his signatures with those Lacson presented in the Senate.

Arroyo also dared the senator to file a case against him if there was in fact anything illegal with his Jose Pidal accounts and his use of a pseudonym.

"If he truly believed that a criminal wrongdoing has been committed, he (should) immediately file the applicable criminal case against me in court instead of wasting taxpayer's money and the valuable time of the Senate."

In his first exposé, Lacson claimed that the First Gentleman used the Pidal accounts to launder nearly P100 million in campaign funds donated to his wife.

Nothing wrong

Arroyo maintained there was nothing irregular with the two bank accounts he opened at the BPI Family Bank and the Union Bank on Perea Street, Makati.

The BPI account was opened in October 1997 and closed in November 1998, according to Arroyo.

He said he reopened the same account that same month and closed it for good in October 2000.

Two years before that, he said, he opened another Jose Pidal account at Union Bank-Perea and closed it in August 2001.

Neither he nor his lawyer Antonio Zulueta revealed the amounts kept in either of the accounts, or the sources of income.

But they maintained that these were the only accounts Arroyo opened using the Jose Pidal alias.

Arroyo described Lacson's claim that the Jose Pidal accounts had a balance of P36.6 million as of July 30 this year as a "total falsehood."

"I have never engaged in any unlawful and illegal activity," he added. "The proceeds from these transactions relative to the bank accounts came from legitimate and lawful sources."

Arroyo also expressed confidence that his use of the Jose Pidal alias did not violate any law.

Opening accounts under a false name in the late 1990s, he explained, was "common business practice" to protect businessmen and their families from kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

Such a practice, he said, was not illegal until the Anti-Money Laundering Act took effect in September 2001, or a month after he had closed the BPI account.

Of all names, why did Arroyo use Jose Pidal in opening the controversial accounts?

Arroyo said he used "Jose" because it was common and "Pidal," because it was the surname of his great grandmother.

He said his older brother did not know that their great-grandmother in Negros Occidental had that surname because the First Gentleman was a "Manila boy."

A key question that Arroyo had to repeatedly answer yesterday was the timing of his admission.

"I did not immediately react because my conscience was clear that I had done nothing illegal," he explained.

"However, the series of events that transpired ... evidenced an obvious intent to propagate a political smear campaign against the First Gentleman."

He said Lacson could have had in mind only a "concerted effort to maliciously direct (the) controversy toward the First Family" when the senator tagged his brother as the owner of the Jose Pidal accounts.

Asked about the claim by his brother's former aide that he had seen the First Gentleman sign as Jose Pidal, the brother said Eugenio Mahusay Jr. could have made the accusation "under duress."

Lacson had initially intended to use Mahusay as his star witness against the First Gentleman until Mahusay's family, accompanied by Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, "rescued" him at a safe house in Tagaytay City last week.

Lacson, PNP chief under now deposed President Joseph Estrada, is considered a likely candidate for president in next May's election. He has been accused of involvement in drug trafficking and allowing the summary execution of a group of suspected bank robbers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has made fighting corruption a top priority, has claimed that Lacson's allegations are an effort to erode her credibility. *With reports from AP, AFP*

Ignacio A: No favors from GMA

From page A1

pears to be interested in running for senator.

A mestizo from a landed old family from Negros and Iloilo, Arroyo has lived mostly in Manila, running the family business, and in the United States.

These days, he stays in a Bacolod hotel when he visits.

His grandfather was Sen. Jose Ma. Arroyo from Iloilo and his grandmother Jesusa Lacson, daughter of Negros revolutionary hero Gen. Aniceto Lacson. His father Ignacio Arroyo married Lourdes Tuason of Manila.

Aside from being chair of the Lakas party's Western Visayas chapter, Arroyo owns at least four businesses.

He heads the LTA Realty Corp. based in San Francisco and LTA Inc. with address at 118 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

He is also the president of JJ Agricultural Corp. and Rivulet Agro-Industrial Corp. both based in Bacolod City.

Known to his family as Ignacito, he is also an active hacendero in his family's hometown in Negros Occidental.

He worked as administrator of the Hacienda Manolita in Binalbagan and the Hacienda Bacan in Isabela.

He was also a member of the boards of the Binalbagan-Isabela Planters' Association, Planters' Association of Negros Occidental, and the Philippine Producers Corp.

San Francisco

Arroyo may owe his business expertise to both experience and education.

He earned his degree in Business Administration, major in Finance, at the University of San Francisco in California in 1975.

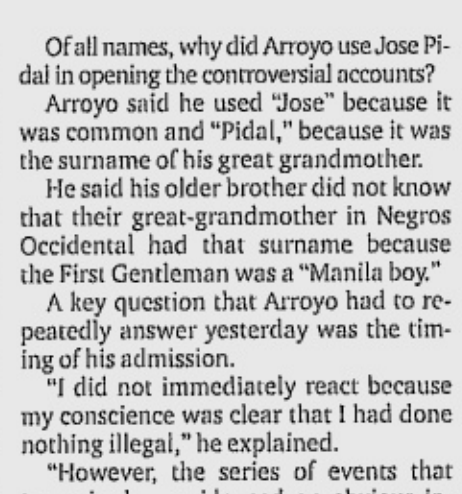
He was a dean's lister at California's Villanova Preparatory High School.

At first, he married a sister of businessman and musician Ramon Jacinto, whose family owns the Jacinto steel mills in Iligan.

The couple had two children. After their marriage was annulled, Arroyo married Alicia Morales. Alice Arroyo is current chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

His three children are Bianca Marie; 28; Dina, 21; and Alelu, 5.

A lawyer close to the family said the Arroyo properties were divided among Mike, sister Malou, and Ignacio when their mother died. Ignacio himself managed the family's sugar mills and other real estate holdings. "He, more than his siblings, has [a] nose for business," the source said.



IGNACIO T. ARROYO: I have never engaged in any illegal activity. JOAN BONDOC

Asked earlier what it was like being the President's brother-in-law, Arroyo had said: "Except for being invited to parties in Malacañang and getting to know government officials, there's practically no change in my life."

"I'm still a businessman. I still live in the same home. I go through procedures in whatever I need anywhere. In short, no special favors go with the status," he said.

"The only thing I could consider as change is more people appeal to our family for help. I am a lot more exposed now than before in helping the needy. Other than that, I have been back to business ever since," he added.

Arroyo was born on Oct. 24, 1950. *With reports from Alcuin Papa*

FOUR DIGIT
8 4 7 8
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
7 8 2

MEGALOTTO 6/45
12 13 14 16 36 39

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Bus detectives not secret marshals, NCRPO insists

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office yesterday clarified that the plainclothes lawmen to be fielded in passenger buses would be called "bus detectives," not secret marshals.

The "secret marshals" of the Martial Law years were undercover policemen deployed in public utility vehicles. They became notorious allegedly for executing robbery suspects.

NCRPO Director Reynaldo Velasco yesterday told the INQUIRER that the deployment of undercover policemen on buses was still being "ironed out" with members of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association.

But officials yesterday said that they have begun deploying uniformed lawmen on passenger buses.

The INQUIRER yesterday reported that the NCRPO plans to deploy uniformed policemen and special lawmen in civilian clothes on the streets to thwart robbers preying on commuters.

IMBOA president Claire dela Fuente, who also referred to the special policemen as "bus detectives," yesterday said that the plan would ensure the safety of passengers, as well as their drivers and conductors.

She added that the deployment would also help in the anti-extortion campaign of the police because lawmen on board the buses would know if traffic officers or cops would attempt to extort money from bus drivers.

Dela Fuente added the bus operators had already "agreed in principle" with the NCRPO about the deployment, although the technical aspects of the plan were still being studied.

About 4,000 buses operate in the metropolis every day. The lawmen are recommended to form two-man teams that would be randomly deployed.

NCRPO IMBOA officials yesterday met to talk about the deployment. The IMBOA presented to the police the critical areas in the metropolis.

Dela Fuente said the bus operators got alarmed when, in one instance, at least 10 robbers who passed themselves off as passengers hit a bus on a highway.

With the deployment, criminals would think twice, she said.

Northern Police District director Marcelino Franco said the deployment would lessen lawlessness in the streets.



POLICE cordon off the Union Bank branch on West Service Road in Parañaque City, after three men robbed the establishment. ERIK ARAZAS

Robbers hit Parañaque bank, Caloocan firm

By Alcuin Papa and Edson Tandoc Jr.

ARMED robbers freely struck in Parañaque City and Caloocan City yesterday and Sunday night fleeing with more than P600,000 worth of cash and valuables.

At 10:15 a.m. yesterday, three men approached the security guard of the Union Bank branch at the Rodeo Building on Km 18, West Service Road, Parañaque City.

The guard, Marcelino Santos, said one of the men who was carrying a big brown envelope asked him where they could apply for a job abroad.

A number of recruitment agencies hold office at the building.

As Santos was giving the stranger instructions, the man pulled out a handgun from the envelope and quickly disarmed the guard.

The three suspects then ran into the bank brandishing handguns and announced the holdup. They ordered bank customers and employees to get down on the floor before cleaning out the cash registers.

Witnesses said the robbery was over in five minutes with the suspects making off with P300,000. They fled onboard two motorcycles.

Later, Parañaque City Police Director Supt. Ronald Estilles identified two of the suspects as brothers Reynaldo and Gerry Antonio, who were earlier arrested for the July 17 heist at the Unionbank branch along Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

They are out on bail.

On Sunday night, three men armed with handguns stormed into the offices of the Mafel Transit company located inside its terminal at 970 Quirino Highway, Barangay Amparo, Caloocan City.

The three men entered the bus terminal at about 9:30 p.m. and immediately disarmed the lone security guard.

They then rushed to the office where they took the cell phones and jewelry of employees after taking the P300,000 three-day earnings of the company.

After the robbery, the suspects boarded a Toyota Tamaraw FX of the company. They then drove off towards San Juan del Monte City in Bulacan.

Adult street dwellers pose bigger problem

By Volt Contreras

IF YOUR heart easily bleeds for street children, here is a grimmer reality: They only make up about one-third of Metro Manila's homeless population.

Adult street dwellers outnumber minors two to one, according to a report of the Department of Social Welfare and Development on "rescued" vagrants from July 2002 to June 2003.

The DSWD said that of its rescued "clients" in the 12-month period, only 1,669 or 31.37 percent were children. The rest were grownups classified as either wandering indigenous peoples or evicted squatters.

In earlier DSWD tabulations from 1999 to June 2002, rescued adults added up to 9,385 compared to 6,786 rescued children.

"Although people are more bothered when they see a street child, I think it's worth repeating that there are more [adult vagrants]," Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman told the INQUIRER.

She conceded that the DSWD and accredited civic groups were finding it more difficult dealing with adult street dwellers who require long-term shelter and livelihood.

The DSWD has accredited 35 non-government organizations which cater to street children and only five that extend services to families and adult mendicants.

In its report, the agency lamented that some local governments only extended "lukewarm support" to its efforts.

But Soliman maintained that the number of street children had been decreasing since the DSWD launched the Sagip Kalinga program in 1999, when then Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo headed the department.

Under Sagip Kalinga, the homeless are urged to take advantage of the DSWD's services.

Oil companies give discounts to PUVs

PETRON Corporation, Caltex Philippines and four independent oil firms are giving special discounts of 20 up to 50 centavos per liter to transport groups in 13 selected filling stations, the Department of Energy yesterday said.

The independent players were identified as Seaoil Philippines, Unioil Philippines, Cityoil and USA 88.

The DOE said the following fuel stations are giving discounts to jeepney groups: Petron on Juan Luna in Tondo, Manila; Seaoil on the corner of E. Rodriguez, on D. Tuazon, and on Edsa and P. Tuazon in Quezon City, and on MacArthur Highway in Potrero, Malabon; Unioil on Airport Road and Naia Road, and on the corner of Quezon Avenue and D. Tuazon; USA 88 on Sucat Road in Parañaque and Ortigas Avenue in Rosario, Pasig City; Cityoil on West Avenue, on the corner of Commonwealth and Regalado in Quezon City, and on Old Sta. Mesa in Manila.

Perez said that the last two stations were also giving discounts to tricycle groups.

"These discounts are effective indefinitely," Perez said.

Caltex officials have announced that they would join the effort but have not yet identified any station.

He added that the 13 stations were only the first group and that more were expected to declare discounts in the coming weeks.

Ronnel Domingo

That TV episode last Saturday

ON TARGET



Ramon Tulfo

I NEVER thought I would get that number of viewers to watch my special episode of "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" on TV.

I was expecting a bigger than usual viewership because many people are interested in uncovering the enigma that is Panfilo "Ping" Lacson. But never that huge number of viewers.

I did not expect either a very strong reaction from the public. I feel exonerated but humbled by the experience of people telling me, in effect, that I was right about Lacson.

* * *

But many people were not able to watch last Saturday's "Isumbong" and would like me to replay it in my program on Saturday.

Some parts of Cavite had a brownout, Baguio did not have power when my program was being shown from 6 to 7 p.m.

I received the following text message from a friend who received it from a friend and forwarded it to me: "Tell RT dat gi-brownout ang Bxu b4 6 pm at bumalik kuryente almost 7 na. Wala din signal sa cable TV RPN 9. D napanood ng Bxu & Agusan Tulfo's program on Mateo's confesyon. Aneco mgr Horacio Santos s d brod in law of Lito Banayo. Sinabotahe kmi dito. Parating kay Tulfo."

Translation: There was a blackout in Butuan and Agusan del Norte before 6 p.m. Power was restored at almost 7 p.m. There was no signal on cable TV because of the power failure. The manager of the **electric cooperative in the area, Horacio Santos is reportedly the brother-in-law of Lito Banayo, Lacson's political adviser. People in Butuan and Agusan suspect a sabotage.**

* * *

But for fairness and objectivity's sake, I will show the retraction of Francisco "Kit" Mateo, former Lacson hit man whose videotaped confessions formed the basis for last Saturday's show.

But after featuring Mateo's alleged retraction, I will show last Saturday's entire episode without the commentary at tail-end of the program. Toward the end of the show, I invited Lacson to give his side.

Mateo's retraction and his confessions shown last Saturday will be for the benefit of those who were not able to watch the show.

* * *

But for those who can't wait until next Saturday, Sept. 6, another channel, IBC-13, will show the replay every day this week Tuesday (today) through Friday from 1 to 2 p.m.

I have given IBC-13 permission to replay Saturday's episode.

Thank you.

* * *

Saturday's "Isumbong" episode was so controversial, the RPN 9 management had to come out with a disclaimer before and after the program.

The night before it was shown, which was Friday, uniformed cops were sent to the RPN 9 compound and its transmitter station because there were reports that a bomb would be "planted" in those premises.

Hours before the program, Cerge Remonde, chair and general manager of Radio Philippines Network (RPN), received a text message purportedly coming from Lacson.

* * *

The text message read: "Cerge dis s ping lacson. I wrote u a ltr (letter) 2 inform u dat d so-called dying declaration of mateo w/c ch9 (Channel 9) s airing 2nyt (tonight) s already subj (subject) of court cases dat I filed agst (against) tulfo. Further, mateo had retracted in a sworn stmnt (statement) w/c attached in dat ltr. Tulfo even wrote abt it in his column 2day (Saturday, Aug. 30). 4 ur aprc8tn (appreciation)." End of first text message.

The second text message purportedly coming from Lacson read: "My lawyer thinks d showing of d same s patently illegal. U may not treat me as ur friend anymore but pls don't make an enemy out of me."

Note the last sentence in the second text: "U may not treat me as ur friend anymore but pls don't make an enemy out of me."

No further comment!

METROBRIEFS

Girl dies in fire

ELIZABETH and Jimmy dela Cruz on Sunday left their house in Llano, Caloocan to buy something. When they looked back, they saw their small house was on fire. They were not able to rescue their only daughter, Ginalyn, 2, for the fire quickly ate up the wooden shanty. Jimmy told police that the 7 p.m. fire could have been sparked by the lamp they were using. Because the shanty was isolated near a creek, no other house was affected in the fire.

Edson Tandoc Jr.

Turf war

LAWMEN Roy Quinito and Rey Juntanilla averted what could have been a bloody turf war between jeepney driver Jojet de Guzman and his comrades, and tricycle drivers in Marikina Sunday. Police arrested de Guzman, 24, of Concepcion Uno, and ten of his neighbors on Gil Fernando Street corner Marcos Highway. De Guzman and his men were armed with improvised guns, blades and steel pipes, police said. De Guzman told police that he was out to get three tricycle drivers who mauled him over the weekend for ferrying passengers on Marcos Highway. De Guzman said the tricycle drivers wanted to stop him from taking on passengers in the area. *Luige del Puerto*

Backstabber falls

P02 ANTHONY Advienta of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency on Sunday night was stabbed in the same area where SP03 Danilo Reyes was slain on Thursday. Police said Ranl Estanil and his friends were having a drink on Corregidor Street, Tondo, Manila at around 10 p.m. when Advienta reprimanded them for drinking at a late hour. Police said Estanil resented the scolding, took out a knife and stabbed the victim twice. Advienta was taken to the Chinese General Hospital for treatment. Estanil is in police custody. *Leila Salaverria*



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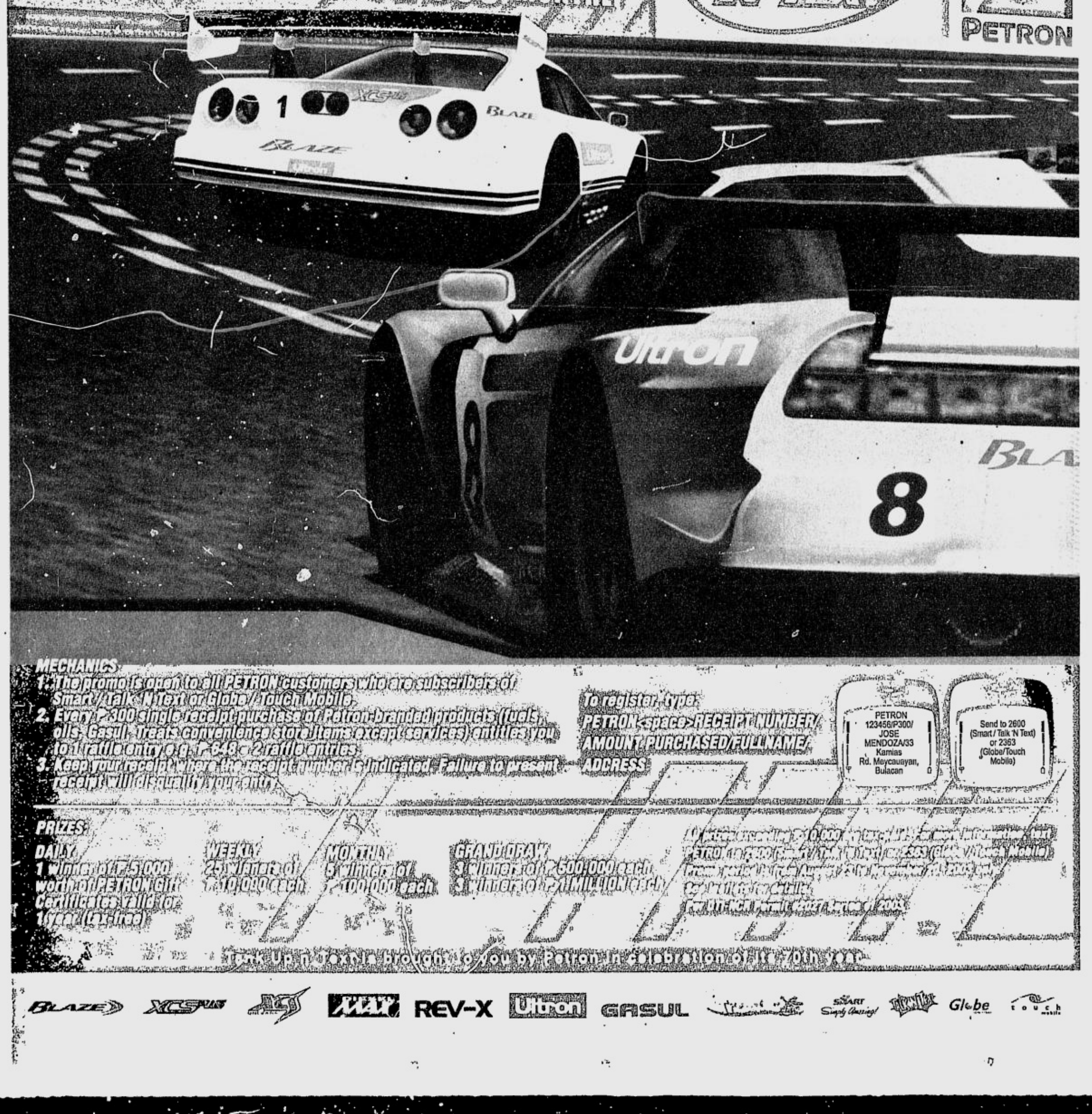
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TENNIS: US Open 2003; 7 a.m. (r-7 p.m.) and 11 p.m.; Star Sports—The fourth round and the quarterfinals go underway from Flushing Meadows.

Davis Cup 2003; 1 p.m.; Solar Sports—Check out quarterfinal action in the world's most prestigious team tournament.

BASKETBALL: Entertainers Basketball Classic; 9:30 a.m. (r-7 p.m.)—Streetball at its finest is featured from the playgrounds of New York City.

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SPORTS

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Blazers trip Cards, boost Stags' cause

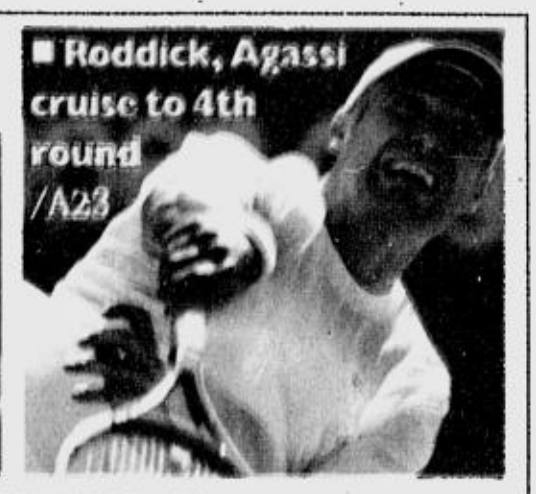
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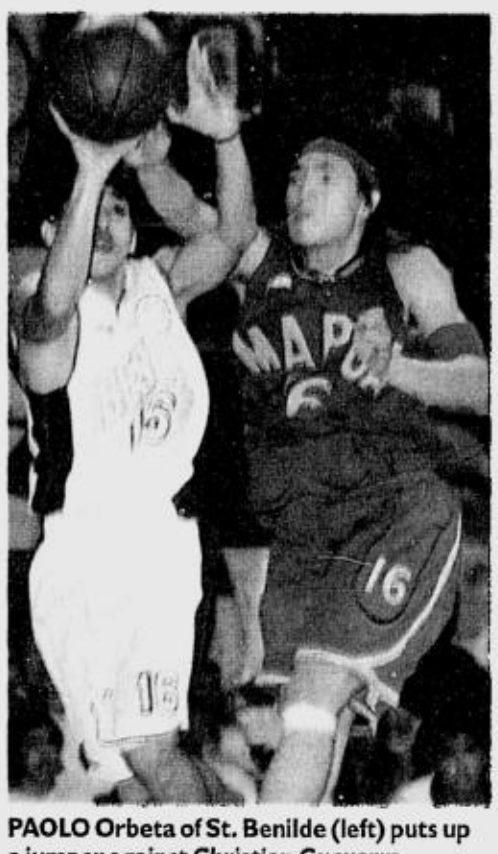




GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—SBC vs CSB (Jrs)
2 p.m.—SBC vs CSB (Srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (Srs)
6 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (Jrs)

By June Navarro

COLLEGE of St. Benilde denied Mapua outright entry into the Final Four by posting an 80-72 victory yesterday that also clinched for defending champion San Sebastian a twice-to-beat privilege in the semifinals of the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.



PAOLO Orbeta of St. Benilde (left) puts up a jumper against Christian Guevarra of Mapua. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Playing with no pressure at all, the out-of-it Blazers unloaded a crippling third-quarter run anchored on rookie Juan Luis Abad that ushered CSB to only its fifth win in 13 outings.

By absorbing their sixth defeat against seven victories, the Cardinals left the semifinal door open for the San Beda Lions (6-7) and the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas (5-7).

The Cardinals' loss also came in handy for the current leader Stags, who are assured of one of the two twice-to-beat slots in the Final Four even if they drop their last assignment against the Altas at the end of the elimination round.

The second twice-to-beat spot will be disputed by Jose Rizal and Letran tomorrow.

The Altas finally bowed out of the Final Four race by taking a 61-62 loss from basement dweller Philippine Christian in the second game.

Abad nailed two three-pointers as the 2002 NCAA champions overhauled a 35-36 deficit to take a comfortable 62-46 spread entering the final quarter.

Abad's first three-pointer sparked a series of fastbreak plays that saw Al Magpayo, Paolo Orbeta, Ronald Capati and rookie Gilbert Sanidad combine to give the Blazers a 50-40 advantage.

Hermes Sumalinog's triple and a freethrow by Andrew Salud made it 44-52 for Mapua, but Abad buried another trey that boosted the Blazers to 55-44.

The Cardinals threatened for the last time at 76-70 with Raymond Dula, Christian Guevarra, Jeffrey Martin and Jeff Gonzales on the firing end.

But Mapua reeled back from a couple of errors, allowing the Blazers to seal the match with Magpayo and Abad converting four freethrows.

Scores:

Second Game (Srs)

CSB 80—Capati 21, Magpayo 15, Abad 14, Orbeta 9, Mendoza 7, U. Reyes 6, Sanidad 6, Rivera 2, Quizon 0, Robles 0.

MAPUA 72—Cruz 12, Gonzales 10, Guevarra 9, Malig 9, Martin 8, Salud 8, Dula 7, Co 4, Sumalinog 3, Migraso 2, Veranga 0, Lee 0

Quarters: 15-12, 35-32, 62-46, 80-72

Third Game

PCU 62—Castro 15, Sanz 12, Garrido 11, Roque 8, Retaga 5, Benitez 5, Cecilia 2, Acraman 2, Salangsang 0, Belga 0.

UPHR 61—Cuenco 15, Bamson 13, Botin 11, Javier 9, Misa 6, Quiazon 3, Joe 2, Balboa 2, Tayer 0, Aseron 0, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 17-17, 28-28, 44-40, 62-61





Bengals overwhelm Bullpups

By Dennis U. Eroa

KIEL Flores and Paulo Abelardo sizzled Sunday as resurgent La Salle-Zobel dumped National University, 87-36, boosting its Final Four bid in the UAAP junior basketball tournament at the Loyola Gym.

The spirited Flores scattered 27 points, while Abelardo added 15 and grabbed nine rebounds as the Bengals roared to their third straight win in the second round for a 6-3 win-loss record.

Simon Atkins, David Poblete, John Aprieto and Michael Diño also towered against the smaller and slower Bullpups, who fell to their 10th straight loss.

The win was a consolation for La Salle, which earlier bowed to NU, 80-59, in the senior division.

Lope Juban III finished with only two points as he concentrated in setting up the Bengals' well-oiled plays but issued a team-high eight assists and grabbed five rebounds.

Ateneo leads the seven-team field with a 9-1 record, followed by Adamson at 8-2. Santo Tomas occupies fourth with a 5-4 mark, while UE is 4-4. Deposed champion UP-Integrated School is 1-9.

Scores:

DLS-ZOBEL 87—Flores 27, Abelardo 15, Atkins 13, Poblete 9, Aprieto 9, Diño 4, Reyes 3, De Asis 3, Karseboom 2, Juban 2, Ornedo 0, Posadas 0.

NU 36—Conopio 9, Garduño 8, Co 6, Valencia 5, Bernabe 3, Piamonte 2, Balabbo 2, Gawson 1, De Leon 0.

Quarters: 28-11, 42-22, 69-25, 87-36



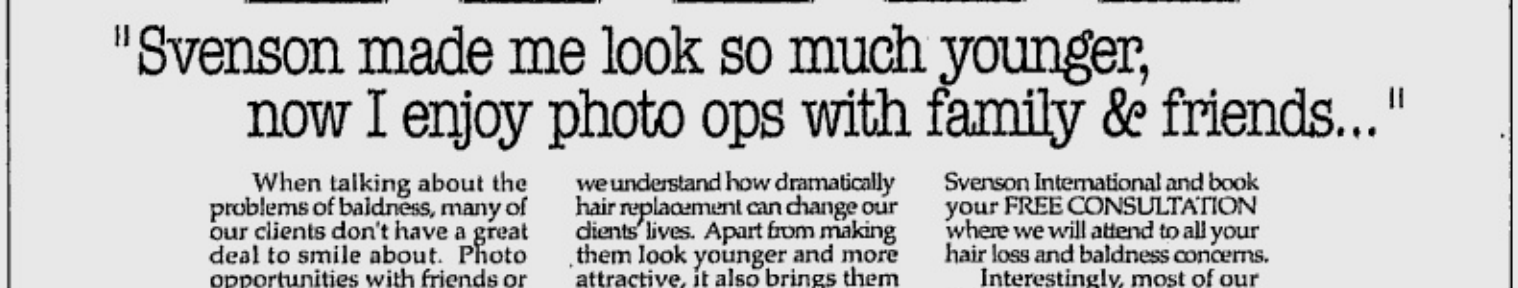
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ROSALES shows her disappointment after dumping two shots into the water in the third round.

₱1.2M for Jenny as rains wash out last round

THE STATE Farm Classic in Springfield, Illinois has just become another "what could have been" case for Jenny Rosales.

Looking forward to a big final-day comeback after a disastrous third round, Rosales' expectation turned to frustration when the final round was called off Sunday (Monday in Manila) due to rain and the tournament was shortened to 54 holes.

Jenny, still searching for her first title in the LPGA Tour, thus settled for a tie for ninth place with Fil-American Dorothy Delasin, Korean aces Se Ri Pak and Kim Young and American Pat Hurst.

Still, the country's top lady pro went home with $22,891 (about P1.25 million) for her sixth top 10 finish in 19 events this year. That moved her up to 25th from 27th in the money list with total winnings of $366,564.

The biggest benificiary, of course, was Candie Kung of Taiwan, who was declared winner by one stroke over Britain's Laura Davies.

Kung, victorious last week in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, carded a one-under 71 Saturday for a 54-hole total of 14-under 202.

Rosales was in the midst of a tremendous rally in the third round when she dumped two balls into the lake on the par 3 16th for a quadruple bogey 7. Shaken, she bogeyed the next hole and stumbled home with a 73 for a 208 total.

Before that horrendous finish, Rosales was only a stroke off Davies, who also rued the cancellation.

"Jenny was so upset with the cancellation because she felt she still had a chance," said Rosales' mother, Lourdes. *Jong Arcano*

PSC STORY

More than just a probe of lifestyles

By June Navarro

THE LIFESTYLE check on some Philippine Sports Commission officials hopes to unearth more cases of possible graft and corruption in the agency.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday said the probe on certain PSC employees who own luxury cars and allegedly living way beyond their means was just the tip of the iceberg.

"There's a lot more (cases) and it will come out sooner or later," said the lawmaker, who had asked the Commission on Audit to conduct a lifestyle check on PSC chair Eric Buhain and seven members of his staff, known as the "Magnificent 7."

Puentevella's call for a lifestyle check stemmed from a column by INQUIRER's Recah Trinidad which cited alleged PSC irregularities relayed to him by sources inside the sports agency.

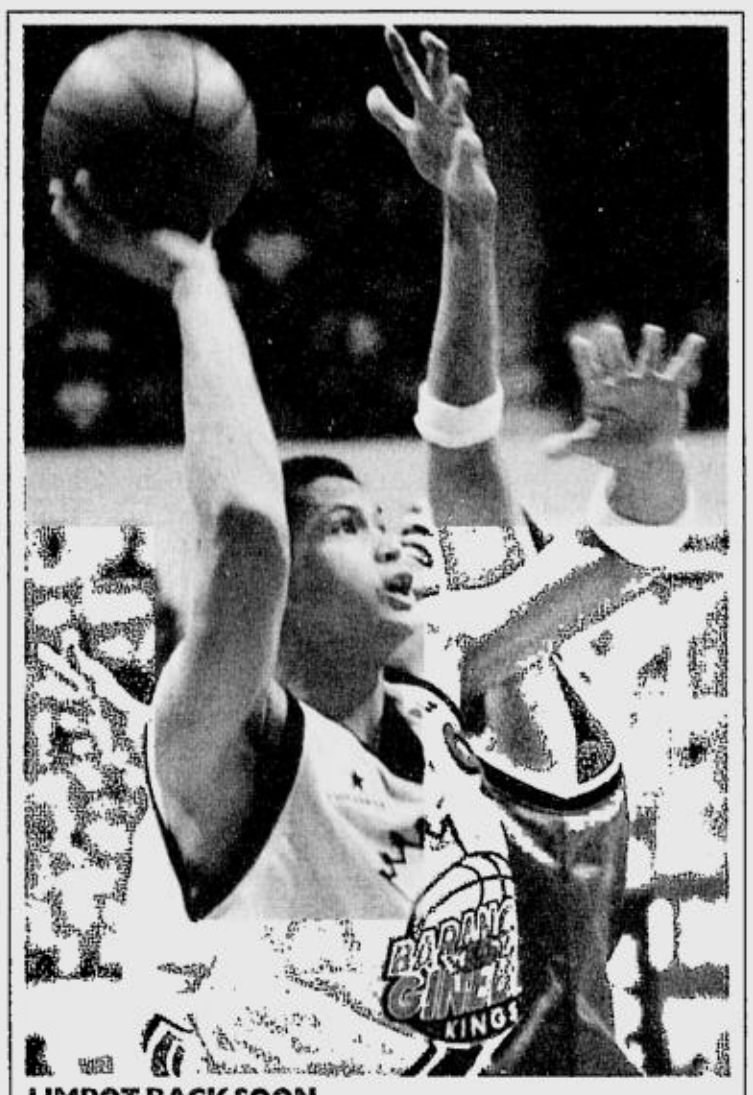
PSC media bureau chief Arsenic Lacson, who admitted being a member of the "Magnificent 7," said nobody among them has acquired brand-new vehicles and they are willing to submit themselves to a lifestyle check.

"They don't own brand-new cars but it doesn't mean they could not be questioned," said Puentevella.

Buhain and his staff were asked to submit their statements of assets and liabilities to the CA last June.

Lacson drives a 1998 Honda CRV while Buhain is usually seen on board a second-hand Suburban.

The other PSC officials under scrutiny are executive director Ed Mateo, who has a 1995 Pajero, Philsports administrator Ramon Suzara (2002 Crosswind), grassroots development head Ariel Paredes (1994 Civic), and executive assistants Ike Buan and Sean Solis who both own 1999 Civics.



LIMPOT BACK SOON

BARANGAY Ginebra's Jun Limpot is excited at news that he'll be able to don the Ginebra jersey sooner than expected. PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said over the weekend that the 6-foot-5 slotman would be reinstated within the week after being suspended for three months. "There's no word yet from Eala. But if the reports are true, then this is a welcome development," said the 31-year-old Limpot, an 11-year PBA veteran and the league's rookie of the year in 1993. He tested positive for prohibited drugs along with seven other players during the PBA's mandatory drug check several months ago. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP among top bets as Nomura Cup blasts off

TAGGED as one of the early favorites, the Philippines tries to live up to its lofty billing when the 21st Asia-Pacific amateur team golf championship, also known as the Nomura Cup, fires off today at the Links Golf Port Douglas course in Queensland, Australia.

The Mizuno-sponsored RP quartet of Jerome Delariarte, Juvic Pagunsan, Jay Bayron and Marvin Dumandan joins a record field of 15 countries, including defending champion Australia, bannered by US Amateur champ Nick Flanagan, in the 72-hole championship.

The Filipinos tied the Australians for third place in the World Amateurs, or Eisenhower Cup, last year in Malaysia.

Both Delariarte and Pagunsan played in that Eisenhower team although it was the now-professional Angelo Que who carried the team to its best-ever finish. Que also placed third in individual play.

Dumandan and Bayron are back in the national team with high hopes of giving veterans Delariarte, the back-to-back national champion, and Pagunsan the needed scoring support. *Jong Arcano*

SPORTSWATCH

Bingo Bonanza rules Corporate Cup

Bingo Bonanza Corp. bested PLDT in a best-of-three final Saturday to win the 2003 JVC Badminton Corporate Cup. The men's doubles partnership of Albee Benitez and Ricky Morales drew first blood for Bingo Bonanza by defeating the PLDT pair of Wilfredo Mirasol and Arnold Portugal, 15-12, 15-4, before Elaine Lau and Kat Esguerra whipped PLDT's Tano Reyna and Sally Cautivo in the women's doubles, 15-7, 15-4. The pair of Bingo Bonanza wins rendered the mixed doubles match moot. On the way to the finals, Bingo Bonanza topped PNOC in the round of 16 before hammering Bellpepper, Inc. in the quarterfinals. It set up the final clash with PLDT by downing Diveshoppe A.

RP junior batters rout Sri Lankans

THE PHILIPPINE junior squad trounced Sri Lanka in an abbreviated match, 17-6, yesterday at the start of its campaign in the fifth BFA AAA Baseball Championship at the Queen Sirikit Stadium in Bangkok. The Filipinos showed their might at the top of the seventh inning, scoring 11 runs on the way to the early lead in Group A. The Filipinos posted 17 hits as against the Sri Lankans' five, with Rola and Fuentes leading the charge with four hits out of five times at bat. Jonnard Pareja supported Fuentes with three hits as the Filipinos preserved the heroics of pitcher Roland Landicho.

Rizal Mideast to host Chairman's Cup

THE ROTARY Club of Rizal Mideast, Rotary International District 3800 will host this year's Chairman's Cup golf tournament on Sept. 12 at the Mimosa Leisure Park, Clark Field, Angeles City. The event is being held for the benefit of the underfed children and the college scholars of the Rotary Club of Rizal Mideast. More than 200 golfers have confirmed their participation, including Sen. Robert Jaworski, according to Jun Sarreal, chair of the special events committee. The president of the Rotary Club of Rizal Mideast, Victorino Hoyumpa, and tournament committee chair, Eduardo Bagtas, have invited First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, also a Rotarian, to grace the event.

Lorenzo 2003 Peace elite champ

OLIVER Barbosa had the most number of points, but Edwin Lorenzo was declared champion as he was the highest-placed executive in the Elite section in the sixth leg of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or Peace 2003 held recently at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. The 16-year-old Barbosa, who was entered in the tournament as part of his preparations for the World Youth Championships in October in Greece, scored five points in six games. His only loss came at the hands of Lorenzo in the second round. Lorenzo edged engineer Ravel Canlas and defending champion Jenny Mayor in the tiebreak to bring home the champion's trophy.

Plagata named coaching director

FAR Eastern University football head coach Orly Plagata was appointed as coaching director by the Philippine Football Federation recently. PFF EVP Johnny Romualdez and secretary general Mike Villadolid said the 69-year-old Plagata will serve like an administrator and evaluate coaching courses/curriculum at all levels—from grassroots to national teams. Plagata can't seem to cut ties with a sport that he loves and has loved him back with this appointment.

Tour stars shine in MCCCI Challenge

STARS of the 2003 Tour Pilipinas lorded it over Sunday's MCCCI Challenge with Warren Davadilla, Rhyan Tanguilig and Arnel Quirimit finishing 1-2-3 in the Elite division of the circuit event staged inside the PICC complex. Davadilla, the national rider who finished third in last summer's Air21 Tour, clocked two hours, 53 minutes, 52.72 seconds in topping the 124-km race organized by the Manila Cultural Center Cycling Inc. Tanguilig, fourth placer in the Tour, submitted the same time as Davadilla in settling for second, followed by Tour champion Arnel Quirimit, Gerry Amar, Victor Espiritu, Alfie Catalan, Sherwin Diamsay and Enrique Domingo with identical times of 2:58:40.09.

Roligon stages 7-stag derby today

PROVINCIAL breeders will challenge Metro Manila's big-time cockers in Roligon Mega Cockpit's RAY Showdown 7-Stag National Derby elimination round which will start at 5 p.m. today. Seeing action in the 75 matches slated are Butchoy Ang of Cagayan de Oro, Manny Chua of Nueva Ecija, Fil-Australian Peter Uren of Pampanga, Tiny Meneses of Laguna, Jun Gerochi of Batangas, Ashley Arayata and Jun Topacio of Cavite, Pol Estrellado, Benjie Lim, Blandy Tolentino, William Go, Jet Fernando, Ting Ariosa, Capt. Emil Chua and Mayor Jessie Viceo. The second batch of participants will compete in Round 2 on Thursday. Derby hosts are Roligon manager Danny Ty and Romero Yu who will be assisted by Shio and Roming Vergara. Meanwhile, promoter Rolly Ligon is inviting breeders to join the 5-Stag Derby on Sept. 16, 18 and 20. For inquiries, call 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Davis Cupper's pa interred today

RETIRED 1st Lt. Crisinciano Rafael, father of former Davis Cupper Rod Rafael, passed away on Aug. 27 in Legaspi City. He was 78. He is survived by wife Felilia Oscilliada and children Ruben, Romeo, Silvia, Susan, Rod, Sonia, Reynald, Sarah and Randy. His remains lie at Funeraria Oro in Legaspi City and will be interred today at the Bicol Memorial Park after a 1 p.m. Mass.

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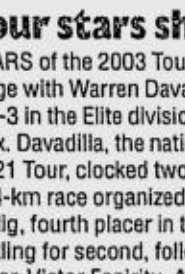
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'I can do it, too'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



RICHARD Williams was watching a tennis tournament on TV when the idea came to his mind: With all the money the tennis players are making, I guess I'll be able to do that too by making my own champion. He talked his wife into it (making love to her overtime, that is). He was amply rewarded: He had more than one champ —Venus and Serena Williams, whose combined collection of Grand Slam titles has virtually transformed women's tennis into quite a bore but nonetheless made Richard a multimillionaire.

And to think that Richard Williams was a mere small-time salesman before he engineered the creation of tennis' Sister Act.

TV also triggered Paradorn Srichaphan's dream of one day becoming a tennis champion. That was in 1989, when, at the age of 10, he saw Michael Chang win the French Open on TV. But more than the game, Srichaphan saw something more. He saw something different in the champion. Different in the sense that, unlike the rest of the field, Chang was not white.

"He (Chang) looks like me," said Srichaphan, revealing his thoughts to George Vecsey of the *New York Times*. "He's Asian. I mean, if he could do it, I can do it, too. So I always look up to him as my idol."

Srichaphan, who learned the game from his father who now accompanies him everywhere he goes, is now 24. He is currently 11th in the world after earlier hitting No. 9, the first Asian to enter the Top 10 since the men's tour went to computer ratings in 1973. Only Tiger Woods, whose mother is Thai, beats Srichaphan in popularity ratings in Bangkok although Srichaphan has landed on the cover of *Time* magazine's Asian edition in April. And, unlike Woods, Srichaphan has had an audience with the King of Thailand.

As I write this, Srichaphan had just beaten Spain's Fernando Verdasco, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, in the third round of the US Open on Sunday in New York.

He may, or may not, win the US Open but that's not the point of this piece. The point is, Srichaphan is now the legitimate carrier of the racket for all of Asia. This September alone, Bangkok will host a Tour-sponsored event on the basis of Srichaphan's stature.

Srichaphan, 6-foot-1 and 180 lb, is showing Asia the way and our young athletes—the tennis hopefuls especially—should learn a thing or two from him.

The trouble, at times, with us is, we depend too much on our so-called leaders. That has got to end.

Richard Williams made Venus and Serena Wimbledon, Olympic and Grand Slam champions without much help from the US Tennis Association. The tennis association of Thailand has got nothing much to do where Srichaphan is now.

While excellence knows no race, it follows, too, that champions are known to be literally self-reliant rather than products of the mendicant. A Buddhist, Srichaphan's serenity makes him at peace with himself, with his desire to excel no matter that his eyes, like that of the 5-foot-9 Michael Chang's, are mere slits, and neither are brown nor blue.

Excellence comes in all shapes and sizes. And colors, too.

***

FASTBREAK. The RP Team starts its campaign today in the Nomura Cup, Asia's top amateur golf team tournament, in Fort Douglas, Cairns, Australia. The NGAP's squad of Jerome Delariarte, Juvic Pagunsan, Jay Bayron and Marvin Dumandan will try to surpass the RP Team's third-place finish in the World Team Championship last year in Malaysia. Admiral Louie Fernandez, NGAP vice president, is delegation head and team skipper, with Roger Retuerto as coach. NGAP president Rod Feliciano said by way of a parting shot to the boys: "If you can do so well in the World Team Amateurs, I don't see any reason why you can't do it, too, in the Nomura Cup."

Tabanas wins in sudden death, leads qualifiers

TRISTAN Tabanas nipped Boboy Jaraula in the fourth extra hole of a sudden-death playoff to rule the championship division of the recent Samsung Amateur Tour at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club course in Cagayan de Oro.

Tabanas led by three after the first round with a 68, but wound up with a 144 total, the same card of Jaraula, in event serving as the third stop of a nationwide circuit.

Jolan Miñoza (class A) and aunt Eva (ladies class A) topped their respective divisions to join the Pueblo qualifiers to next year's grand finals.

Jolan, son of touring pro Raul who played in the Optimist International in Florida last month, posted a six-shot win with rounds of 74-75, while Eva was unchallenged with her scores of 80-77.

Aurello Ponce de Leon (class B), Edward Escovidal (class C) and Joy Lopez (ladies class B) were the other division champions in the tourney co-sponsored by Mario's Restaurant, Wilson, Gatorade, Tokyo Tokyo, Microtel, Custom Clubmakers and Dunlop Golf.

In the Putting Challenge, Mike Celdran and Noel Lopez (men), Eva Miñoza (ladies), Bay Platon (senior) and Joshua Lopez (junior) qualified to the final.

US OPEN

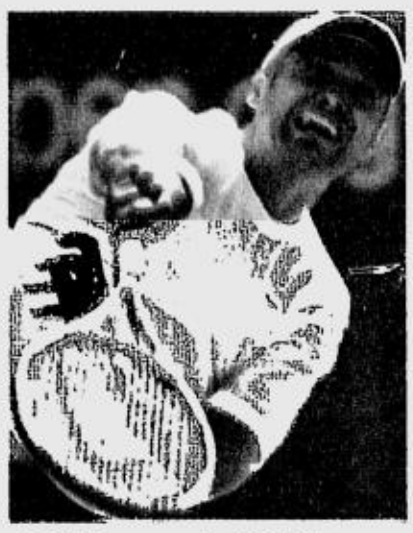
Roddick, Agassi cruise to 4th round

NEW YORK—Andy Roddick unfurled his body and unleashed an ace that forced a line judge to duck as the ball slammed against the wall with a thud.

It was the loudest display Roddick produced Sunday in a 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Flavio Saretta to reach the US Open's fourth round. Roddick was the picture of calm, without a trace of the antics he used to pull—and which his prior opponent derided.

Instead, it was Saretta who clowned around, staring at a line when he thought a call was incorrect, kicking the ball, flipping his racket in the air or cracking it on the ground. The No. 4-seeded Roddick was all business.

"I've been playing like that the past three months," Roddick said. "I just kind of realized I didn't need to fight a mental battle every day."



AGASSI serves against Kafelnikov. AFP

Andre Agassi doesn't engage in antics these days, too concerned with saving every bit of energy and keeping track of each detail. So Agassi wasn't pleased about not being consulted when his third-round match against Yevgeny Kafelnikov was suspended for nearly 24 hours early in the second set Saturday.

Not that it mattered in the end: The top-ranked Agassi wrapped up a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-4 victory Sunday to set up an Old vs Young meeting with fellow American Taylor Dent in the round of 16 Monday. Dent upset No. 15 Fernando Gonzalez on Saturday.

Everything seems to come so effortlessly for Roger Federer, who moved a step closer to being the first man since Pete Sampras in 1995 to win Wimbledon and the US Open in the same year. The No. 2-seeded Federer reached the fourth round with a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over unseeded American James Blake.

Now Federer will face No. 13 David Nalbandian, who's won all four of their matches.

Roddick didn't have to trouble himself too much with such minutiae en route to a fourth-round matchup against Xavier Malisse, who eliminated Dmitry Tursunov 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (8). *AP*



TIM Duncan, Jermaine O'Neill, Elton Brand, Jason Kidd and Kenyon Martin (from right) of the US hold the first place trophy. AFP

US dunks way to gold; Puerto Rico 5 makes it

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Turning the game into a dunking exhibition with a brilliant first half, the United States humiliated Argentina 106-73 Sunday night in the gold medal game at the Tournament of the Americas.

Unbelievable alley-oop dunks were followed by even better ones in the strongest all-around performance by a US team since the Sydney Olympics.

A much more competitive game was expected after Argentina performed brilliantly in its semifinal win over Canada on Saturday night to qualify for the Olympics. Argentina, which defeated the United States last summer at the World Championships, also competed well against the US team in the second round, losing by just eight.

But with nothing at stake aside from national pride, the Americans showed themselves ready to restore a sense of normalcy to a basketball universe that changed so drastically last summer when the US team lost three times at the World Championships.

Led by Tim Duncan, Tracy McGrady, Vince Carter and Jason Kidd, the Americans brought a much stronger team to this tournament—a team that peaked in its finale.

One sequence over the first 5 1/2 minutes of the second quarter went like this: a dunk by Elton Brand, a high-arcing alley-oop pass from Mike Bibby to McGrady for a dunk, an alley-oop dunk by Carter off a pass from Bibby, a basket for Argentina, a fast-break dunk by Carter, a steal and layup by Bibby, an alley-oop dunk by Jermaine O'Neal off a pass from Kidd.

When it ended, the score was 53-19.

Game over—except for the formality of the final 24 1/2 minutes.

Meanwhile, Jose "Piculin" Ortiz had a triple-double of 21 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, Daniel Santiago added 15 points, 11 rebounds and six assists and Carlos Arroyo held a frustrated Nash to just 10 points on 2-for-13 shooting as Puerto Rico defeated Canada 79-66 Sunday night in the third-place game and earned the last ticket to the Athens Olympics. *AP*

Scott takes 3-shot lead; Woods 8 adrift

NORTON, Massachusetts—Adam Scott birdied the 18th hole to take a three-stroke lead after the third round of the $5 million Deutsche Bank Championship on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Australian shot a four-under-par 67 to move to 15-under 198, three ahead of Jonathan Kaye who fired an eight-under-par 63.

Britons Darren Clarke and Justin Rose, the first-round leader, and Australia's Geoff Ogilvy trailed Scott by four shots with Rocco Mediate, Tim Herron and South Korea's KJ Choi a further stroke back.

World number one Tiger Woods had his best round of the tournament, a 67, to finish on 206.

Just as he did during his second-round 62, Scott made a flying start on Sunday, an eagle and two birdies on the front nine at the TPC of Boston helping him to make the turn in a four-under 32. *Reuters*

US relay teams sparkle as world trackfest ends

PARIS—J.J. Johnson ran down Britain's European champion Dwain Chambers in the straight to snatch the 4x100-meter relay title for the United States on the final day of the world championships on Sunday.



US sprinters Me'Lisa Barber, Demetria Washington, Jearl Miles Clark, and Sanya Richards celebrate their 4 x 400 relay victory. REUTERS

Facing the grim prospect of finishing an Olympic Games or world championships for the first time without a gold in either sprint relay, the men's team rose to the challenge.

Weakened by the absence of Olympic champion Maurice Greene and world record holder Tim Montgomery, they trailed Britain on the second and third legs.

On the anchor leg Johnson, a former college basketballer and American footballer who was on the victorious American team in Edmonton two years ago, showed his mental strength.

He set off in chase of Chambers and overhauled the Briton just ahead of the line before leading the Americans on a victory lap.

A disconsolate Chambers said: "He did me on the line but at least I got a medal. It should have been gold." The US women's 4x400 relay team won a second gold and individual 400 champion Jerome Young anchored the men's team to victory, holding off fast-finishing Frenchman Marc Raquil over the final meters.

The United States finished top of the medals table with 10 golds ahead of Russia, which collected six.

Ethiopia, the success story of the championships, was third with three golds and the Kenyan national anthem finally sounded in the Stade de France.

The Ethiopians' great African rivals had managed only a silver and a bronze before Sunday but picked up two golds on Sunday to finished equal seventh with South Africa.

World junior cross country champion Eliud Kipchoge seized his moment to upstage Hicham El Guerrouj and Kenenisa Bekele and win the 5,000 meters in a championship record 12 minutes 53.12 seconds. *Reuters*

Clemens posts 100th win

BOSTON—Roger Clemens of the New York Yankees notched his 100th win at Fenway Park and Aaron Boone had two hits and drove in two runs in an 8-4 triumph over the Boston Red Sox in the American League Sunday.

The victory gave the Yankees two of the three games in the series between the AL East rivals and a 5 1/2 game lead over the Red Sox in the division.

Clemens (13-8), who plans to retire at the end of the season, received a standing ovation when he left the game in the seventh inning.

He played for the Red Sox from 1984-96 and, unless the teams meet in the playoffs, it will be his last appearance at Fenway Park. *Reuters*

Drago tops World Pool tilt

FILIPINO Efren "Bata" Reyes bowed to 2002 world champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, 8-6, in the quarterfinals of the 2003 World Pool Masters eventually won by Tony "Tornado" Drago at the Hotel Zuiderduin, Egmond aan Zee in Holland over the weekend.

Malta's Drago edged the United States' Strickland, 8-7, in the semifinals and then downed Chinese Taipei's Hui-Kai Hsia, 8-6, in the finals to bag the top purse of $20,000.

The 49-year-old Reyes received $2,500, the same amount won by Mika Immonen of Finland, reigning world titlist Thorsten Hohmann of Germany and Nick Van Den Berg of the Netherlands, who had earlier ousted Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 8-3, in the opener.



US OPEN

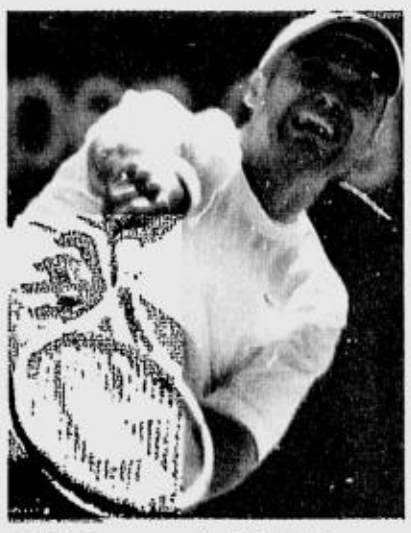
Roddick, Agassi cruise to 4th round

NEW YORK—Andy Roddick unfurled his body and unleashed an ace that forced a line judge to duck as the ball slammed against the wall with a thud.

It was the loudest display Roddick produced Sunday in a 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Flavio Saretta to reach the US Open's fourth round. Roddick was the picture of calm, without a trace of the antics he used to pull—and which his prior opponent derided.

Instead, it was Saretta who clowned around, staring at a line when he thought a call was incorrect, kicking the ball, flipping his racket in the air or cracking it on the ground. The No. 4-seeded Roddick was all business.

"I've been playing like that the past three months," Roddick said. "I just kind of realized I didn't need to fight a mental battle every day."



AGASSI serves against Kafelnikov. AFP

Andre Agassi doesn't engage in antics these days, too concerned with saving every bit of energy and keeping track of each detail. So Agassi wasn't pleased about not being consulted when his third-round match against Yevgeny Kafelnikov was suspended for nearly 24 hours early in the second set Saturday.

Not that it mattered in the end: The top-ranked Agassi wrapped up a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-4 victory Sunday to set up an Old vs Young meeting with fellow American Taylor Dent in the round of 16 Monday. Dent upset No. 15 Fernando Gonzalez on Saturday.

Everything seems to come so effortlessly for Roger Federer, who moved a step closer to being the first man since Pete Sampras in 1995 to win Wimbledon and the US Open in the same year. The No. 2-seeded Federer reached the fourth round with a 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over unseeded American James Blake.

Now Federer will face No. 13 David Nalbandian, who's won all four of their matches.

Roddick didn't have to trouble himself too much with such minutiae en route to a fourth-round matchup against Xavier Malisse, who eliminated Dmitry Tursunov 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (8). *AP*



TIM Duncan, Jermaine O'Neill, Elton Brand, Jason Kidd and Kenyon Martin (from right) of the US hold the first place trophy. AFP

US dunks way to gold; Puerto Rico 5 makes it

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Turning the game into a dunking exhibition with a brilliant first half, the United States humiliated Argentina 106-73 Sunday night in the gold medal game at the Tournament of the Americas.

Unbelievable alley-oop dunks were followed by even better ones in the strongest all-around performance by a US team since the Sydney Olympics.

A much more competitive game was expected after Argentina performed brilliantly in its semifinal win over Canada on Saturday night to qualify for the Olympics. Argentina, which defeated the United States last summer at the World Championships, also competed well against the US team in the second round, losing by just eight.

But with nothing at stake aside from national pride, the Americans showed themselves ready to restore a sense of normalcy to a basketball universe that changed so drastically last summer when the US team lost three times at the World Championships.

Led by Tim Duncan, Tracy McGrady, Vince Carter and Jason Kidd, the Americans brought a much stronger team to this tournament—a team that peaked in its finale.

One sequence over the first 5 1/2 minutes of the second quarter went like this: a dunk by Elton Brand, a high-arcing alley-oop pass from Mike Bibby to McGrady for a dunk, an alley-oop dunk by Carter off a pass from Bibby, a basket for Argentina, a fast-break dunk by Carter, a steal and layup by Bibby, an alley-oop dunk by Jermaine O'Neal off a pass from Kidd.

When it ended, the score was 53-19.

Game over—except for the formality of the final 24 1/2 minutes.

Meanwhile, Jose "Piculin" Ortiz had a triple-double of 21 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, Daniel Santiago added 15 points, 11 rebounds and six assists and Carlos Arroyo held a frustrated Nash to just 10 points on 2-for-13 shooting as Puerto Rico defeated Canada 79-66 Sunday night in the third-place game and earned the last ticket to the Athens Olympics. *AP*

Scott takes 3-shot lead; Woods 8 adrift

NORTON, Massachusetts—Adam Scott birdied the 18th hole to take a three-stroke lead after the third round of the $5 million Deutsche Bank Championship on Sunday.

The 23-year-old Australian shot a four-under-par 67 to move to 15-under 198, three ahead of Jonathan Kaye who fired an eight-under-par 63.

Britons Darren Clarke and Justin Rose, the first-round leader, and Australia's Geoff Ogilvy trailed Scott by four shots with Rocco Mediate, Tim Herron and South Korea's KJ Choi a further stroke back.

World number one Tiger Woods had his best round of the tournament, a 67, to finish on 206.

Just as he did during his second-round 62, Scott made a flying start on Sunday, an eagle and two birdies on the front nine at the TPC of Boston helping him to make the turn in a four-under 32. *Reuters*

US relay teams sparkle as world trackfest ends

PARIS—J.J. Johnson ran down Britain's European champion Dwain Chambers in the straight to snatch the 4x100-meter relay title for the United States on the final day of the world championships on Sunday.



US sprinters Me'Lisa Barber, Demetria Washington, Jearl Miles Clark, and Sanya Richards celebrate their 4 x 400 relay victory. REUTERS

Facing the grim prospect of finishing an Olympic Games or world championships for the first time without a gold in either sprint relay, the men's team rose to the challenge.

Weakened by the absence of Olympic champion Maurice Greene and world record holder Tim Montgomery, they trailed Britain on the second and third legs.

On the anchor leg Johnson, a former college basketballer and American footballer who was on the victorious American team in Edmonton two years ago, showed his mental strength.

He set off in chase of Chambers and overhauled the Briton just ahead of the line before leading the Americans on a victory lap.

A disconsolate Chambers said: "He did me on the line but at least I got a medal. It should have been gold." The US women's 4x400 relay team won a second gold and individual 400 champion Jerome Young anchored the men's team to victory, holding off fast-finishing Frenchman Marc Raquil over the final meters.

The United States finished top of the medals table with 10 golds ahead of Russia, which collected six.

Ethiopia, the success story of the championships, was third with three golds and the Kenyan national anthem finally sounded in the Stade de France.

The Ethiopians' great African rivals had managed only a silver and a bronze before Sunday but picked up two golds on Sunday to finished equal seventh with South Africa.

World junior cross country champion Eliud Kipchoge seized his moment to upstage Hicham El Guerrouj and Kenenisa Bekele and win the 5,000 meters in a championship record 12 minutes 53.12 seconds. *Reuters*

Clemens posts 100th win

BOSTON—Roger Clemens of the New York Yankees notched his 100th win at Fenway Park and Aaron Boone had two hits and drove in two runs in an 8-4 triumph over the Boston Red Sox in the American League Sunday.

The victory gave the Yankees two of the three games in the series between the AL East rivals and a 5 1/2 game lead over the Red Sox in the division.

Clemens (13-8), who plans to retire at the end of the season, received a standing ovation when he left the game in the seventh inning.

He played for the Red Sox from 1984-96 and, unless the teams meet in the playoffs, it will be his last appearance at Fenway Park. *Reuters*

Drago tops World Pool tilt

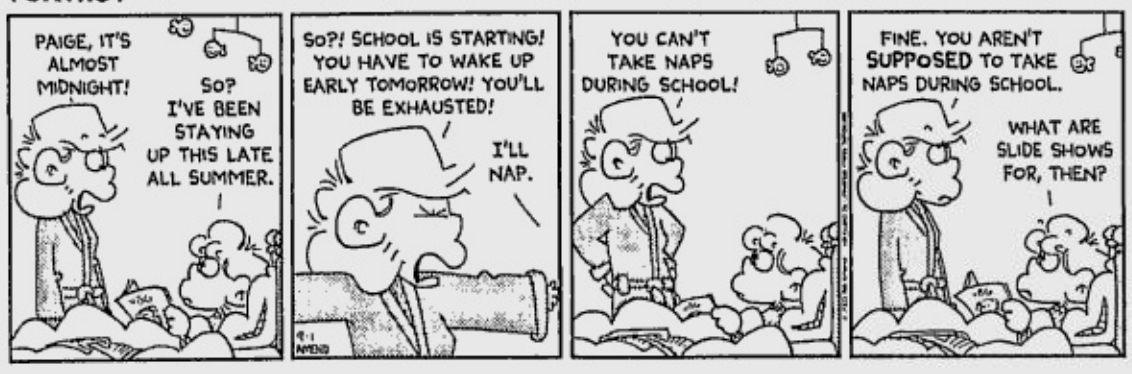
FILIPINO Efren "Bata" Reyes bowed to 2002 world champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, 8-6, in the quarterfinals of the 2003 World Pool Masters eventually won by Tony "Tornado" Drago at the Hotel Zuiderduin, Egmond aan Zee in Holland over the weekend.

Malta's Drago edged the United States' Strickland, 8-7, in the semifinal and then downed Chinese Taipei's Hui-Kai Hsia, 8-6, in the finals to bag the top purse of $20,000.

The 49-year-old Reyes received $2,500, the same amount won by Mika Immonen of Finland, reigning world titlist Thorsten Hohmann of Germany and Nick Van Den Berg of the Netherlands, who had earlier ousted Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 8-3, in the opener.



FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are very real. You are honest, and you are fair. Your straightforward style inspires respect from others. You dismiss phoniness because you have your own personal standards that you believe in. There is something important for you to learn this year. Expect increased solitude to do so.
Birthdate of: Keanu Reeves, actor; Mark Harmon, actor; Salma Hayek, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The demands of work (and possibly your health) interfere with your desire for adventure and escape today. This is a simple fact. You cannot cross the river in two boats—only one.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): No matter how much you want to delight children or romantic interests, your responsibilities still come first. Accept your limitations and function within them the best way you can.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Moon opposes your sign. This means you have to be extra-patient with family members and situations at home. You can do this.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Expect transportation delays: auto breakdowns, missed buses and the like. Allow extra time for travel and communication with others today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): There is an old Navajo saying that a man who loves his family can never be rich. Be generous to others. Broaden your sense of family. After all, we are all in this Big Soup together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Four planets are now in Virgo; however, today the Moon makes a harsh aspect to them. Be extra-patient with others, especially family members and everything connected with real estate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to take some time to be by yourself today to do some thinking. Quiet solitude in pleasant surroundings will benefit you now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Old friends from the past reenter your life now. For some reason, this might put a financial strain on your pocketbook. Relax; don't try to impress anyone; be who you are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Avoid direct confrontations with bosses and authority figures today. You might be tempted to assert yourself. It's not a good idea; you will lose more ground than you will gain.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Quiet thoughts about other cultures and values that are different from yours can open your eyes to a different point of view. This is a good thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Although well-meaning, a friend might not have the best advice for you about how to share something. Trust your own gut instinct on this. If something feels fishy, it is.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Avoid conflict with authority figures today. You cannot please partners and parents at the same time right now. Don't get caught in the middle.

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



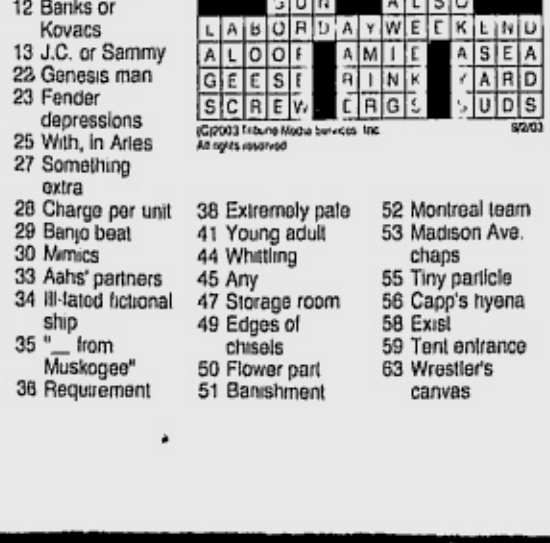
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



DAILY CROSSWORD



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

9/2/03

ACROSS
1 Heroism
6 __ Beach, FL
10 Vigoda and Burrows
14 Ooze out
15 Divisible by two
16 Succotash ingredient
17 Stitch again
18 Fast period
19 Verbal subtlety
20 __ Baba
21 Ill-fated ship, 7/26/56
24 Fortuneteller's deck
26 Employed again
27 CCCP newspaper
29 Religious figure
31 Daily Planet reporter
32 Beef-and-potato stew
34 Calendar abbr.
37 City on the Mohawk
39 Mine find
40 Fence post
42 __ of Cortez
43 Ski
46 Buffalo's lake
47 Abyss
48 Followed orders
50 Kitchen gadget
53 Change for the better
54 Ill-fated ship, 3/27/69
57 Grimm imp
60 Pointed ends
61 List element
62 Cyber messages
64 Hand-cream ingredient
65 Nary a one
66 Insect stage
67 For fear that
68 Fed
69 Much inclined

DOWN
1 Designer Wang
2 Lipinski leap
3 Ill-fated ship, 5/7/15
4 Poetic piece
5 Bounty
6 South African grassland
7 Of all time
8 Russo of "Lethal Weapon 3"
9 Toronto's lake
10 Pantomime
11 Ill-mannered individuals
12 Banks or Kovacs
13 J.C. or Sammy
22 Genesis man
23 Fender depressions
25 With, in Arles
27 Something extra
28 Charge per unit
29 Banjo beat
30 Mimics
33 Aahs' partners
34 Ill-fated fictional ship
35 "__ from Muskogee"
36 Requirement
38 Extremely pale
41 Young adult
44 Whittling
45 Any
47 Storage room
49 Edges of chisels
50 Flower part
51 Banishment
52 Montreal team
53 Madison Ave. chaps
55 Tiny particle
56 Capp's hyena
58 Exist
59 Tent entrance
63 Wrestler's canvas

Monday's Puzzle Solved

F	A	T	E			S	C	A	B			A	T	L	A	S
E	L	I	A			E	R	L	E			L	E	O	N	E
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S	C	R	E	W			E	R	G	S			U	D	S

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9/2/03

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ITALIAN JOB R13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	**PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN** PG13 12:30, 3:20, 6:15, 9:10	**SPY KIDS 3D** GP 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
PINAY PIE R13	**WAKING UP IN RENO** PG13 1:30, 3:30, **A VIEW FROM THE TOP** PG13 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	**PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN** PG13 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM. - MON TO FRI

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	NENA INOCENTE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PINAY PIE
B	SEX DRIVE
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5481 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	NENA INOCENTE
CINEMA-3	WAKING UP IN RENO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-6	ALEX & EMMA
CINEMA-7	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-8	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-12	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-14	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-15	LXG

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

(LAS PINAS)	LA I
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	HOT

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	KEKA
Ali 2	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 3	SPY KIDS 3
Ali 4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
Ali 5	ITALIAN JOB
Ali 6	FINDING NEMO
Ali 7	LXG

ARANETA COLISEUM

SEPT 3	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES : ADMU VS. UST
SEPT 6	UAAP CHEERING COMPETITION
SEPT 11	UAAP GAMES: UST VS. UE
SEPT 13	UAAP GAMES: ADMU VS. DLSU
SEPT 18	UAAP GAMES: DLSU VS. UE
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATRE-MALL

GREENHILLS

CINEMA 1 | CINEMA 2

CINEMA 1: PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
P13

CINEMA 2: SPY KIDS 3D
10:50, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

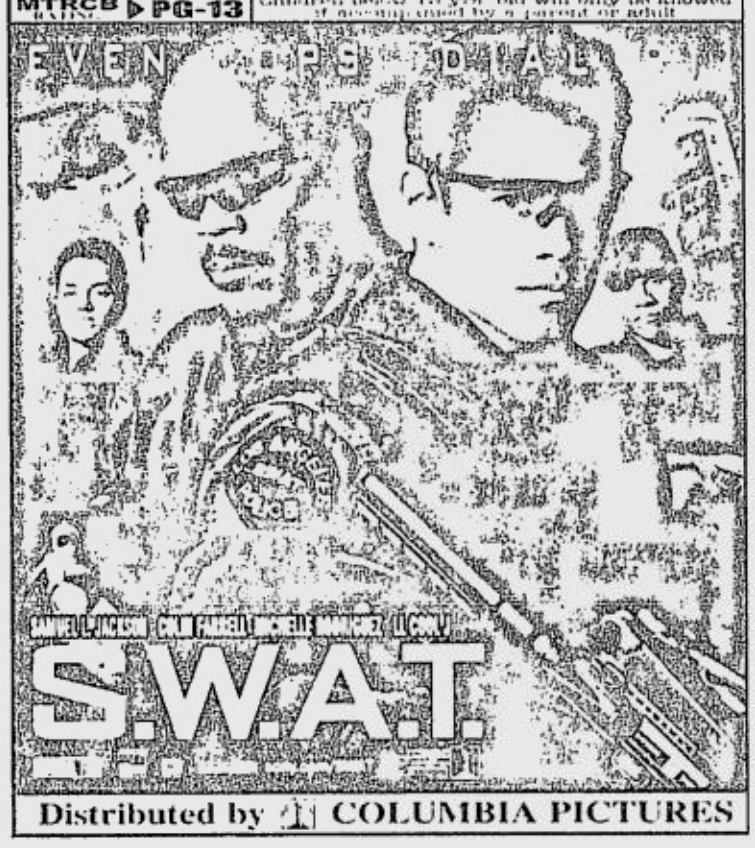
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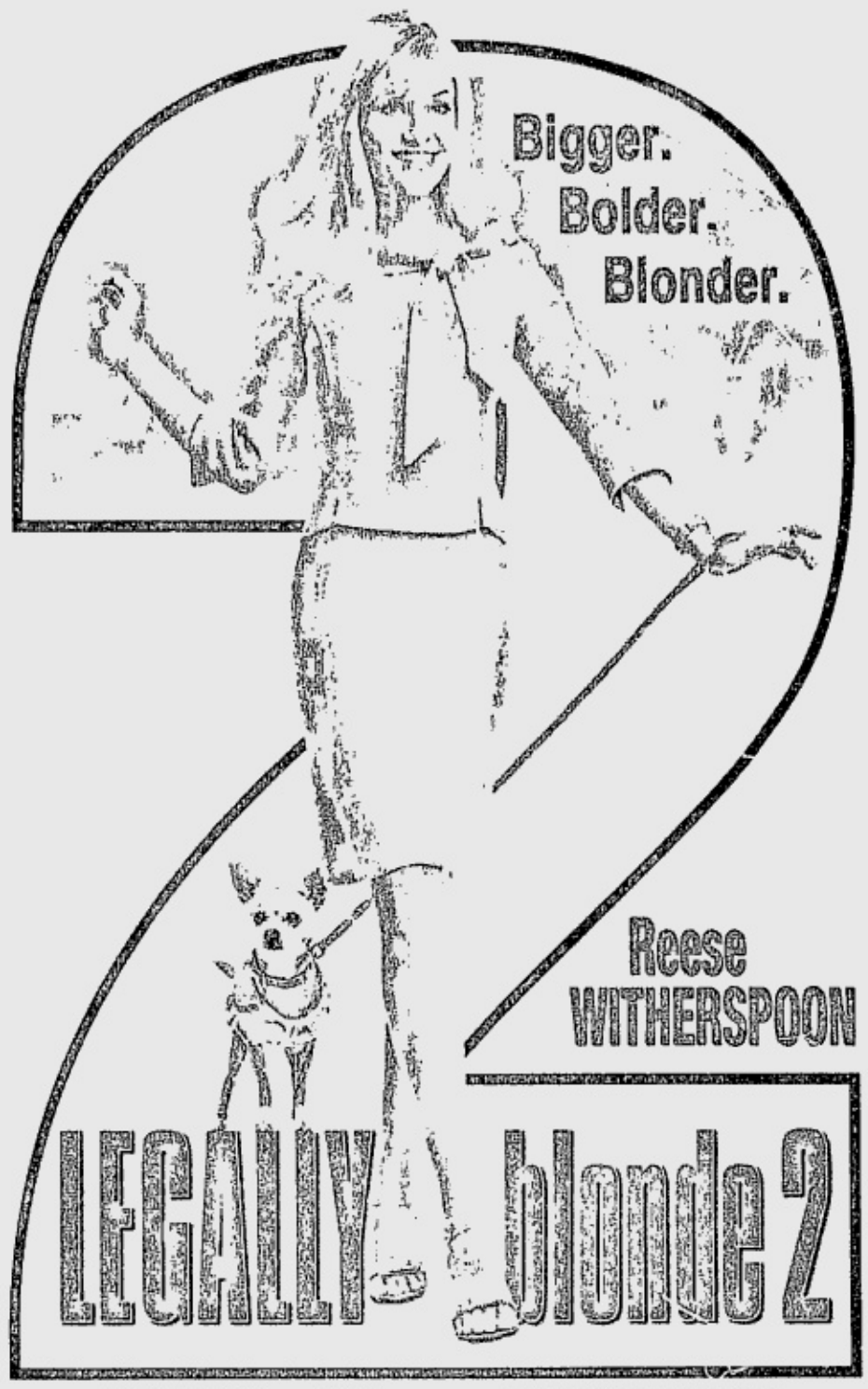
PINAY KAGANDAHAN...RARAMPA NA!
PIGURANG PINAY...POPORMA NA!

Onemig Bondoc Carlos Agassi Rafael Rossel
Carlo Maceda Jenny Miller and Vhong Navarro

Joyce Jimenez | Assunta da Rossi | and | Ai-Ai delas Alas



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SALLY FIELD REGINA KING JENNIFER COOLIDGE BRUCE McCULL with BOB NEWHART and LUKE WILSON Music ROLFE KENT Casting ANITA CALAMARAS Costumes SOPHIE DE RAKOFF CARBONELL
PETER HEYWORTH Story MOSSY STEWART Screenplay ELLIOT DAVIS Produced by AMANDA BROWN Directed by REESE WITHERSPOON Written by MARC PLATT DAVID WISNIEWSKI
Executive Producers EVE AHLERT & DENNIS DRAKE and KATE KONDELL Produced by KATE KONDELL Based on Characters Created by CHARLES HERMAN-WURMFELD

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Love, according to Powerdance



HIGH on "mush," the Douglas Nierras Powerdance show leaves a lasting impression with its eloquence and passion.

By Marge C. Enriquez

REVIEW

PLUGGED into the global media, we watch the world's endless trail of misery from the comforts of our home. Perhaps we have been desensitized to it all, or we're glad it's not happening to us. The trauma overload through the media has resulted in a compassion fatigue.

Choreographer and Powerdance artistic director Douglas Nierras wonders if we are languishing in a love-and-compassion burnout. This is why his recent concert, "Love, Powerdance," focused on sentiments and the different aspects of relationships.

"Mush is the order of the day," Nierras said in jest.

To set the romantic mood, Nierras opened with "Tenderness," set to a Mozart adagio with electronic rhythm. Clad in Schiaparelli pink costumes, the dancers emerged from the basement of Aliw Theater on a hydraulic lift. From a tight circle, they spread out on stage, their arms circling and pitching in long oblique lines, thrusting forward and back, swinging around their bodies. The imagery was of a flower sprouting from the earth and then spreading its petals and seeds to the world.

Nierras wove a mellifluous fabric of motion whose simplicity emphasized expressiveness. To the layman, the movements expressed the passages in the flute and violin melodies. But Nierras picked up the score's underlying rhythmic sensations and created movements that would make the cadence come alive.

As a surprise ending, a mythical creature emerged from the basement and flew to the ceiling.

Set to love songs, "Piling-Piling Filipino Klassics" reflected our penchant for romance, but interpreted in an edgy way. "Ang Tangi Kong Pag-Ibig" was a solo of a male dancing against a corps. "Bituing Marikit" was created for the female ensemble to act out the ebb and flow of the movement dynamics.

The company assembled in "Hindi Kita Malimot," which harked back to memories of childhood games. It was a showpiece of the dancers' gymnastic virtuosity–flips and somersaults that did not make them look competitive.

"Swan Lake, Act 2: What's Love Got to Do With It?" was more than just a drag spoof of a classic. Nierras irreverently upended the elements of the Petipa classic–Tchaikovsky's score, the white tutus, the misty lake scene, the mime, the intricate formations of the swans, and Swan Queen Odette and Prince Siegfried's *pas de deux*–and presented it as camp yet still relevant today.

Nierras used an all-male corps, replete with hairy armpits and Adam's apples, and a cross-dressing Prince who changed into a swan with a tutu and a feathered headdress. The Prince went hunting and accidentally shot one of the cygnets in the neck. The swans took revenge by shooting the Prince.

Nierras made fun of the misconception that men in white tights are sissies. The Prince was shown as a weakling having a tough time supporting the beefy Swan Queen (get the pun?), who wore a Tina Turner wig.

In the classic version, the frightened swans, spellbound by the evil magician Von Rothbart, symbolized male domination. By casting a stocky Swan Queen who barked at Von Rothbart and punished the Prince for violating animal rights, Nierras showed the reversal of gender politics. It left a double-edged question: Is this girl power in a macho world, or an assertion of gay rights in this homophobic society?

The Swan Queen's impersonation of Turner's "What's Love Got to Do With It?" certainly shattered our notions of fairy-tale love.

Mystery and passion

Set to religious music, "Theotokos" was Graham-influenced. It's about the relationship between Mary and Christ, depicted in tableaux, up to the Ascension. It mirrored Nierras' own devotion to his mother as well as our maternalistic society.

Lighting played a significant role here. Jay Aranda's subdued but sculpted lighting design not only flattered Nierras' stage compositions but also evoked the moods of religious mystery and passion.

Between numbers, Nierras surprised the audience with solo vignettes accompanied by romantic poetry, which he read. A speech and drama graduate, Nierras does good oral interpretations. He explored the cavernous Aliw Theater by having the dancers perform on the balcony or fly above the audience.

The *piece de resistance* was the premiere of "Facets of Love," Nierras' commentary on the fatality of attraction, which leads to repulsion when lust wears off. It contained subtly sensual, dramatic and dazzling passages, set to Albinioni's "Adagio" and Claude Challe's "Soufinight." The dancers' red unitards emphasized the passion. The pervading tone was foreboding and forceful, punctuated by a wailing of the singer.

Attraction, repulsion

What was striking about "Facets" was the stage pattern, an imagery for how relationships are consummated in the home. The chairs that the dancers brought in and out the set had several meanings, such as the putting up and breaking down of barriers.

Nierras spaced the dancers' movements so that the audience's eye was not focused on any particular person or part of the stage for a long time. The dancers moved in squares and parallelograms and infinite diagonals, danced on top of chairs to show who dominated the relationship. These choreographic methods not only aimed to keep the audience's attention to the dance as a whole but also to show the creeping breakdown of the relationships.

The sexual attraction and repulsion were characterized by tortured bodies, sudden hip gyrations and expansive leg extensions. "Facets" resolved with a lone couple reconciling after a sustained deliberation. But it left the audience hanging: Was the making up for real or were they going to break up again?

Nierras assembled a good crop of dancers this year. They had a fine command of dynamics, of spatial and body eloquence, and of nuances of passion, and left a lasting impression.

More Brickman ballads



BRICKMAN

JIM Brickman has more fine, soothing, romantic music, in his new album, "Love Songs and Lullabies."

The new compilation by the talented pianist, singer and songwriter features the hit carrier single "You," as interpreted by Jane Krakowski, better known as the lovable and naughty secretary Elaine on the hit TV series "Ally McBeal."

The other tracks include "Little Stars," "Love Never Fails" featuring Amy Sky, "Shades of White," "Beautiful," "Course of Love (from CBS' "Guiding Light"), and the bonus tracks "Tsunami" and "One Dream" with Megastar Sharon Cuneta.

Brickman popularized the hit ballads "Valentine," sung by Martina McBride; "Your Love," sung by Canadian country singer Michelle Wright; "Destiny," "The Gift" and "The Love I Found in You."

"Love Songs and Lullabies" is now available in CDs and cassettes in record stores nationwide.

It is exclusively distributed by BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc.

OPENS SEPTEMBER 10
MAGIC 97.9
LEE EVANS
JACKIE CHAN
CLAIRE FORLANI
COLUMBIA TRISTAR PRESENTS
THE MEDALLION
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DID YOU KNOW...

Love birds Kris Aquino and Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez were seen dining at the Kulinarya Restaurant at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell in Makati City last Friday. Saturday night, Dina Bonnevicw and a male companion were seen at the lobby of one of the cinemas in the same mall.

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a story so beautiful until
a following so strong
it created a tourist boom in the places
where the series was shot
TOMORROW
Find out what audiences all over Asia have been raving about.
GMA
Monday to Friday
after HABANG KAPILING KA

Bibot and Baby star in two plays

WHEN we talked to **Zenaida "Bibot" Amador** last Tuesday, she admitted feeling exhausted because she was rehearsing for not one but two plays that she and **Baby Barredo** were starring in during the next few months.

First on top is the latest staging of "The Vagina Monologues," with Bibot, Baby and **Monique Wilson** performing, at the new Republic of Malate on Sept. 19 and 20 (Call 896-6695).

Now, that's what we call a dream cast for **Eve Ensler**'s hit play. The show needs actors who are both exuberant and sensitive, and the production's latest troika of performers can be relied on to supply those qualities —in spades!

Trouble is, after they have completed their very limited run in the series of monologues, future casts run the risk of being unfavorably compared to them.

Well, they'll just have to like it or lump it . . .

Up next for Bibot and Baby is Bahaghari Production's latest offering, "Late Nite Catechism," a hit comedy that will have 12 performances at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati, from Oct. 3 to 26.

Bibot and Baby alternate as stars and directors of the fun show, which has been hailed as "hilarious" by Fox TV news.

They play a nun who teaches an adult catechism class to a group of students (the audience), thus bringing up memories of convent school days.



Sponsored performances include: Oct. 3, Save Davao Gulf Foundation. Oct. 5, St. Joseph, Quezon City.

Oct. 10, Maryknoll Class '78. Oct. 12, St. Joseph Alumnae Association. Oct. 17, Literacy Program of the Rotary Club of San Jose del Monte.

Oct. 23, Mother for Peace. Oct. 24, Maryknoll (MCHS) Batch '80. Oct. 26, Center for Positive Futures, a St. Joseph-assisted project.

Saturday and Sunday matinee performances are at 3 p.m.

For tickets, call 891-5610.

Bahaghari producers are **Margie Moran Floirendo, Carmita Francisco, Nina Romualdez** and **Maan Hontiveros.**

Bahaghari also produced the acclaimed film "Bagong Buwan" and the "Illusione" stage productions.

'Really Wild Towns'

THE DISCOVERY Travel and Adventure Channel visits truly eccentric places with its new program, "Really Wild Towns."

Locales include a Gulf Coast retirement community that turns out to be a haven for circus folk; an Indian village where every man aspires to become a snake charmer; an Australian town where the temperature is so hot that residents live underground—and the shoe capital of the world, Marikina City, Philippines.

Eiga Sai 2003

THIS year's Eiga Sai filmfest focuses on seven films by **Takeshi Kitano**—"Fireworks," "Kids Return," "Boiling Point," "Kikujiro," "Sonatine," "Violent Cop" and "A Scene from the Sea."

Five movies from Asean countries will also be screened —"House of the Peacock" (Thailand), "Nostalgia for Countryland" (Vietnam), "Jogho" (Malaysia), "Whispering Sands" (Indonesia), and the collaborative film, "Southern Winds," which includes a section directed by **Mike de Leon.**

The festival leads off with the screening of Kitano's "Kikujiro" and "Fireworks" at 8 p.m. today at The Podium (cocktails at 6:30 p.m.).

The festival proper will unreel at SM Cinema, Megamall, from Sept. 3 to 7. Move-over screenings will be held at the UP Film Center from Sept. 8 to 12. And the CCP's Dream Theater will be showing the Eiga Sai films from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3.

Partial Megamall schedule: Sept. 3 at 12:30 p.m., "Jogho." 3 p.m., "Violent Cop." 5:30 p.m., "House of Peacock." 8 p.m., "Sonatine."

Sept. 4 at 12:30 p.m., "A Scene from the Sea." 3 p.m., "Boiling Point." 5:30 p.m., "Whispering Sands." 8 p.m., "Kids Return."



CRUZ. "It runs in the family."

John Lloyd: I had eyebag treatments

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

JOHN Lloyd Cruz, the star of the ABS-CBN *teleserye* "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay," didn't undergo an operation to eliminate his prominent eyebags, but had laser treatment twice to lighten the dark circles around his eyes.

"*Para lang hinihila ang skin mo*," John Lloyd said of the treatment which he described as painless.

While waiting for his scene to be shot on the set of his new movie for Star Cinema, "My First Romance," John Lloyd stressed that he only tried the laser treatment twice at a popular dermatological center, although it should be a monthly practice. There's a more intensive process, but he's not about to go through that, he said.

The new movie features the love teams of John Lloyd and Bea Alonzo, his partner in "Kay Tagal," and of John Prats and Heart Evangelista.

Like all show biz stars, John Lloyd has to put on makeup before he faces the cameras, "but my skin absorbs the makeup," he explained. "Even perfumes don't last on me."

He said that having eyebags and dark circles runs in his family, but his are particularly conspicuous "because I always lack sleep."

"Six hours of sleep is ideal for me," he said. "But how long I stay in bed depends on my schedule. I spend about 30 minutes tossing and turning before I eventually fall asleep. I'm a light sleeper, but I have a hard time getting up from bed."

Tapings for the TV series usually last a full 24 hours. Aside from "Kay Tagal," John Lloyd is a mainstay of the Sunday afternoon drama, "Tabing Ilog," which has been on the air for five years.

"Kay Tagal" should have ended last July, a year after its debut on primetime TV, but it was extended to September, and finally to October, according to its second unit director, Don Cuaresma, who's also directing the John Lloyd-Bea episode of "My First Romance."

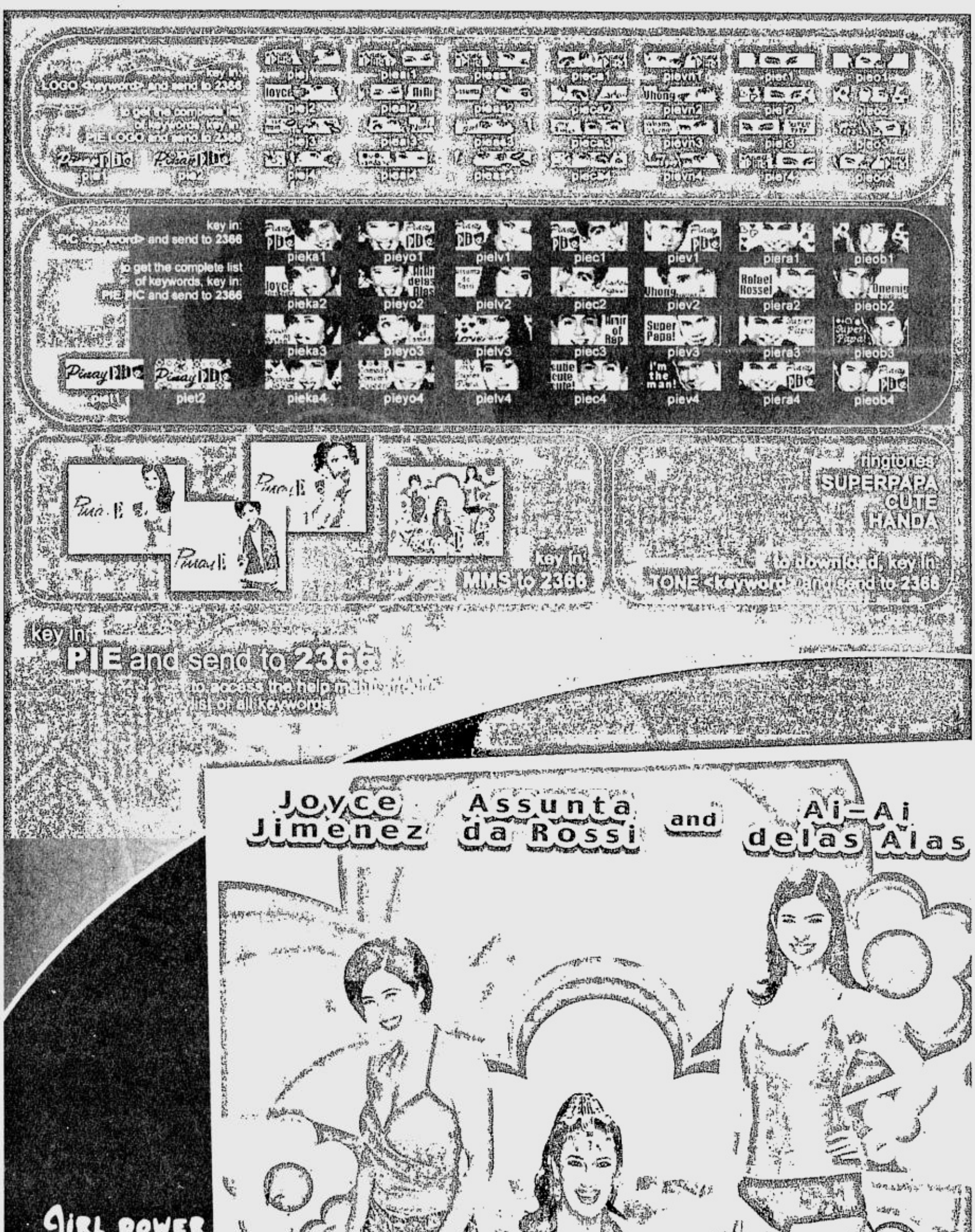
"My First Romance" is John Lloyd's fifth movie, after "Ikaw Pala ang Mahal Ko," "Nagbibinata," "Mahal na Kung Mahal" and "Forevermore."

Licad survives . . .

From page A28

Miriam Baguidudol, the provincial government's civil defense deputy coordinator, said the landslide in Barangay Amganad was one of the five big slides that hit the national highway in Banaue on Thursday.

The unavailability of equipment prevented public works crew from immediately clearing the roads, forcing tourists and commuters to hike over slopes and man-made bridges. ***Elizabeth Lolarga, Contributor, and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Sagad' with insertions pulled out

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE CENSORS last Friday ordered the withdrawal of El Niño Films' "Sagad" from theaters nationwide after they found unapproved sex scenes inserted in the movie.

Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) Chair Consoliza Laguardia said she received a text message last Thursday from an unidentified "concerned citizen" reporting the insertions.

Laguardia said she sent two MTRCB agents to watch the movie, which stars Via Veloso, at Cinema 3 of the Star Mall in Mandaluyong City.

She said the agents reported seeing four sex scenes that were not in the copy of the movie that El Niño Films had sent to the MTRCB for screening last July 26.

In a memorandum to Mila Pascual, owner of El Niño Films, Laguardia ordered the 20-day suspension of the permit to exhibit "Sagad" for violation of MTRCB rules and regulations.

Earlier, the MTRCB also ordered that the showing of "Kikay," also produced by El Niño Films, be stopped as the censors also found unapproved sex scenes in the film.

"It is for this reason that a sterner penalty may be meted out by the board," the two MTRCB agents recommended in a letter to Lagurdia.

The MTRCB chair said she ordered El Niño's Pascual to appear before an investigation panel tomorrow afternoon.

"During my last meeting with Ms Pascual about 'Kikay,' she said that as part of their self-regulation, El Niño was willing to be suspended for one year," Laguardia said. "We are considering that possibility."

"Sagad" allegedly shows Veloso and another bold star, Sydney Segovia, engaged in graphic sex scenes with costars Jeffrey Gonzales and Harold Pineda.

INQUIRER Entertainment tried to reach Pascual, but her assistant Naty Cheng said Pascual was not available to give a statement.

Star Mall cinemas may also face closure for an indefinite period if they are proven to have conspired with El Niño Films in showing the questionable film version, said the MTRCB.



MADONA AND BABES

Britney Spears looks on as Madonna and Christina Aguilera kiss, and then takes her turn (below) while Christina watches, during Friday's 2003 MTV Music Awards at the Radio City Music Hall in New York. AFP

SHOW STOPPER





IT WAS a night when things went awry and were turned inside-out, upside-down and every which way but right and proper. Aside from the three-way shocker above, the MTV Music Awards show in New York also featured singer Beyonce Knowles performing in an unusual position indeed. REUTERS

Licad survives mudslide in Banaue

BANAUE, Ifugao—Pianist Cecile Licad waded in knee-deep mud last Friday to get out of this tourist town that was hit by landslides brought on by heavy rains the day before.

Licad was visiting this town, known for its rice terraces, with her son Otavio and movie director Marilou Diaz-Abaya when a landslide blocked the national highway in Barangay Amganad here on Thursday.

Falling rocks hit two high school students while they were walking home during a heavy downpour. Julia Dumapis, 13, and Wilis Maui Palanay, 11, both students of the Immaculate Concepcion High School here, were treated at the provincial health office in Lagawe town for fractures and bruises.

The landslides also buried two houses occupied by two families.

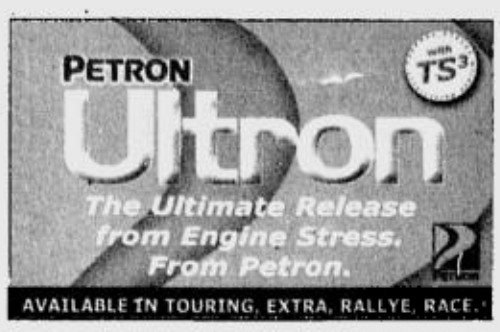
Licad and her party spent the night at the Banaue Hotel. They were scheduled to return to the United States on Saturday.

They were stranded for hours until a van sent by Mayor Nestor Alvarez of the Science City of Muñoz brought them to Bagabag town in Nueva Vizcaya, where they took a private helicopter that brought them back to Manila.

Earlier, Licad had a solo recital, part of her outreach performances that have taken her to Nueva Ecija, Manila and Antipolo City, at the Mother Madeleine Hall of St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City.

She made a side trip to Banaue with her son, who celebrated his 16th birthday last Friday, Diaz and concert organizer and writer Pablo Tariman to see the world-famous rice terraces.

LICAD/ A27



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Gov't rejects T-bill bids; peso recovers

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday rejected all bids at the regular treasury bill auction that would have raised the benchmark 91-day rate by 0.67 percentage point.

The financial market blamed the continued weakness of the peso, unending political controversies and prospects of a higher deficit in August as among the factors that prompted investors to seek a higher return on their placements in government securities.

Accepting bids for the 182- and 364-day treasuries would have raised the borrowing cost on these tenors by 77.3 basis points (0.773 percentage point) and 88 basis points (0.88 percentage point).

Since the July 27 mutiny, auction results have been mostly erratic, with the government rejecting most of the offers submitted by banks. Economic managers agreed that the failed coup attempt affected the economy and increased spreads on the government's foreign borrowings.

"With all these uncertainties, the market is looking for a clearer direction. Most are taking a wait-and-see attitude, including us, and this is why we rejected (all the bids)," Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa said yesterday.

She said the market could be waiting for the August inflation announcement this week to have an idea as to what the central bank would do next to address ongoing concerns on the peso.

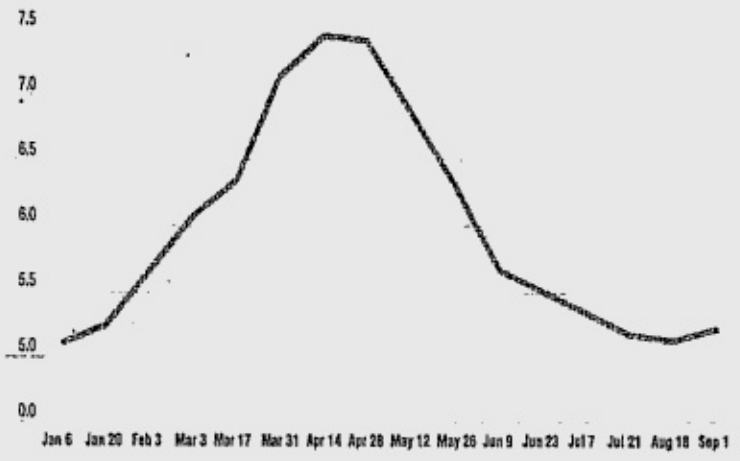
The treasury official said she believed that a big portion of the excess liquidity in the market was siphoned off by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' move scrapping the tiering scheme on overnight borrowing rate. All overnight bank deposits with the BSP now earn 6.75 percent.

The BSP removed the tiering scheme last Thursday to encourage banks to deposit their money with the central bank instead of speculating on the peso.

The move, along with stern warnings from Malacañang against speculation, strengthened the peso to 54.93 to $1 on the same day, but fell back to 55 on Friday due to jitters caused by the resignation of Defense Secre-

GOV'T/ B2

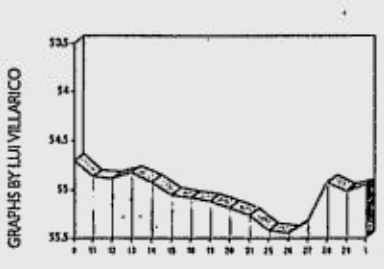
91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES
January to September 1, 2003



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

GRAPHS BY LUJI VILLARICO



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.96 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 1, 2003

¥ 116.68 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 1, 2003

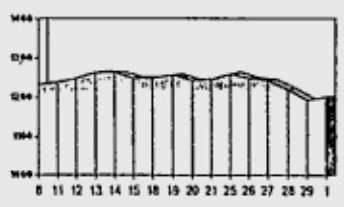
GOLD: **$ 376.50-377.00**
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 1, 2003

United States	Dollar	0.91000091	1.000000	54.947000
Japan	Yen	0.007781	0.008551	0.469900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.43589	1.577900	86.700900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.11668	0.128220	7.045300
Switzerland	Franc	0.650279	0.714592	39.264700
Canada	Dollar	0.656567	0.721501	39.644300
Singapore	Dollar	0.519585	0.570972	31.373200
Australia	Dollar	0.589226	0.647501	35.578200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.413796	2.652520	145.748000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.242674	0.266674	14.652900
Brunei	Dollar	0.518105	0.569346	31.283900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022152	0.024343	1.337600
UAE	Dirham	0.247794	0.272301	14.962100
Euro	Euro	1	1.098900	60.381300
Argentina	Peso	0.308475	0.338983	18.626100
Brazil	REAL	0.307225	0.337610	18.550700
Denmark	Kroner	0.134627	0.147942	8.129000
India	Rupee	0.019878	0.021844	1.200300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.239506	0.263193	14.461700
Mexico	Peso	0.08245	0.090604	4.978400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.52589	0.577901	31.753900
Norway	Kroner	0.12128	0.133275	7.323100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015812	0.017376	0.954800
Korea	Won	0.000775	0.000852	0.046800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026726	0.029369	1.613700

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher

AUGUST SEPTEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES closed higher yesterday for the first time in five sessions, but turnover was weak indicating a mere technical rebound amid lingering political worries after the resignation of the country's defense chief.

The market's rise was not broad-based, although dominant phone firm PLDT—one of the top five stocks heavily-weighted in the main index—led the gainers.

The Philippine stock index ended up 9.09 points or 0.76 percent higher at 1,201.9 points after paring earlier gains, taking its year-to-date rise at 18.02 percent.

Turnover fell to P350.4 million against P676.7 million on Friday. Unchanged issues—at 50—were more than the gainers and losers combined, at 25 to 16.

"There was technical buying after the sharp drop last week," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

"It will be difficult to sustain the rise given the uncertainties surrounding the market. The market might hover around the 1,200 level in the next few days, but the political developments would greatly affect trading in the coming days," Plana said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes quit his post on Friday, warning that a well-funded plot still existed to bring down the government a month after a failed mutiny by junior soldiers.

His resignation also fueled a weaker bias in the peso.

PLDT advanced 1.87 percent to P545, taking its cue from the 2.04-percent climb in American Depositary Receipts traded in New York on Friday.

Port operator ICTSI rose 1.89 percent to P2.70. The company said it was looking into opportunities to develop and operate ports in Trinidad and Tobago and Puerto Rico but said it has yet to sign a management concession for any of the ports. *Reuters*

BCDA, Alliance Global sign deal

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority and Alliance Global Group Inc. yesterday signed a joint-venture agreement to develop the 25-hectare Lawton Parkway property in Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, into a prime residential complex.

The BCDA awarded the joint-venture contract to AGGI after the developer placed the winning bid of P2.375 billion, which bested those of Ayala Land Inc., Robinsons Land Inc. and JAD Holdings.

ALI offered a bid price of P1.7 billion for the right to develop the BCDA property, while RLC placed a P1.4-billion bid, and JAD holdings, P1.1 billion.

During the contract signing, AGGI paid a down payment of P942 million, which indicated the transfer of property rights from the BCDA.

Under the joint venture agreement, the BCDA will get a 35-percent share of revenue to be generated from the sale of subdivision lots in the Lawton Parkway, while AGGI will have the remaining 65 percent. For the sale and lease of residential and condominium spaces, the BCDA and AGGI will undertake a 21 percent-79 percent sharing scheme.

"Under our revenue-sharing agreement, they (AGGI) will pay us a minimum of P120 million a year for a period of 15 years," BCDA president and chief executive officer Rufo Colayco said in an interview.

"The Lawton Parkway will be developed much like the Eastwood City. It will be very good for residential development because of its rolling land that will enable the developer to produce an entertaining environment," Colayco said.

INTEREST RATES

September 01, 2003-
MART1 Rates

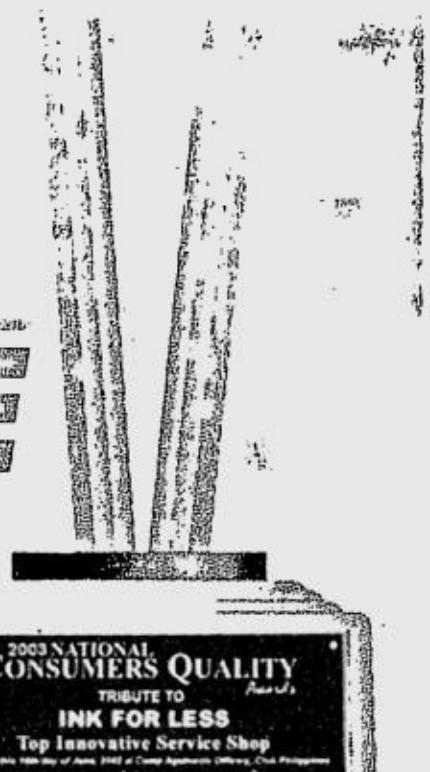
Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 1-Sep-03	MART1 29-Aug-03
1 Month	6.0804	6.0446
3 Months	6.3446	6.1733
6 Months	6.7196	6.6536
1 Year	8.3446	8.2567
2 Years	9.8033	9.7717
3 Years	10.47	10.4367
4 Years	10.7833	10.7717
5 Years	11.1571	11.125
7 Years	11.615	11.5633
10 Years	11.9233	11.9217
20 Years	12.2317	12.2167
25 Years	12.5117	12.4833

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Foreign investment flow to Asean expected to recover

PHNOM PENH—The flow of foreign direct investments (FDI) to Southeast Asia is expected to recover this year despite the impact of SARS and the recent terrorist bombings that have hit the region, Asean trade ministers said yesterday.

FDI flows to the region in 2002 fell 18 percent to $12.4 billion from 2001 largely due to a global economic slowdown, political tensions and reduced corporate spending, the ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) noted.

Preliminary statistics, however, indicate that the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) earlier this year has had only a "limited impact on investments" on Asean members Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam."

While the recent terrorist bombings in the Jakarta and in India have put a damper on financial markets, the outlook for Asean as a whole remains positive.

The trade ministers said they remained "upbeat on the outlook of FDI flows to the region in 2003 and 2004 because of a better global economic situation and stronger regional economic development."

"FDI flows to the region in 2003 and 2004 are expected to be higher than the year before," said Kong Vibol, Cambodia's Secretary of State for Economy and Finance who also chaired the Asean Investment Area meeting here.

He noted that intra-Asean investment stabilized at $2.3 billion in 2002, with some member countries receiving higher FDI flows compared to the previous year.

Southeast Asian governments' resolve to combat terrorism has only been boosted by the latest terrorist attacks, noted Singapore Trade Minister George Yeo, whose government has been cracking down on suspected Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist cells.

Philippine Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas, whose government is also at the forefront of the global war on terror, said intelligence agencies in the region were now closely working together to address the problem.

He said that he remained optimistic that foreign investors would continue to be positive on the region, stressing that the bombings have only further showed the "solidarity of Asean leaders."

The upcoming Asean leaders' summit in Bali, Indonesia will also serve notice to the world that the 10-member bloc's progress will not be hindered by terrorist attacks, he said. More than 200 people, mostly foreign holidaymakers, were killed by a bomb attack in the Indonesian resort last year.

The trade ministers also agreed to further liberalize the region's services sector, realizing that nearly 50 percent of total FDI flows to Asean in 2000-2002 went to this area.

"This underscores the growing importance of the services sector to the economies of member countries," the ministers said in a joint statement after the Asean Investment Area Council meeting.

Senior officials have been asked to recommend steps in expanding the scope of the investment area to cover education, health care, telecommunications, tourism and banking and finance, among others. *AFP*

RP seen hitting low end of growth target

By Clarissa S. Batino



NERI

THE ECONOMY must grow by at least 4.3 percent and 4.6 percent in the third and fourth quarters to meet the low-end gross domestic product growth target for the year of 4.2 percent, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

The Neda made this forecast after the second quarter GDP growth of 3.2 percent fell way below the target of 3.7-4.4 percent for the period. The optimistic growth scenario for the year of 5.2 percent was already scrapped.

The Department of Finance, for its part, said it was studying the numbers to see whether there was a need to recast revenue targets for the year.

"We will study whether the new numbers are achievable in the second half. From there, we can tell whether there will be an impact on revenue," said a senior finance official.

The government has to hit its revenue target for the year to contain the budget deficit within the P202-billion ceiling.

A percentage point drop in the GDP against the target would reduce revenue collection by about P5 billion.

"We are still hoping to hit the low-end of the GDP target," said Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri in an interview.

Neri said the government was counting on the continued acceleration of the services sector and the recovery of the farm and industry sectors to deliver the needed growth in the second half.

Neri said the agriculture sector must grow by at least 4.2 percent in the third quarter and by 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter to bring in a 3-percent growth for the full year.

The poor performance of the farm sector, which grew by only 1.6 percent in the second quarter against a target of 2.7 percent, dragged the GDP growth down.

"We expect the agriculture sector to recover in the third quarter because the El Niño has ended. Due to the delayed harvest, we see increased output in the third quarter. The problem with the fourth quarter is that we would be coming from a very high base last year," he said.

The Neda projected that the industrial sector would grow by 3.3 percent in the current quarter and 4.7 percent in the fourth quarter.

₱223-M assistance for increased food production OKd

THE CABINET-level Investment Coordination Committee has approved a new tranche of the RP-Japan Increased Food Production or KR-2 program worth P223 million as part of its bid to boost countryside productivity.

In a statement yesterday, the ICC lead agency, National Economic and Development Authority, said the new project aimed to increase agricultural production and boost the income of small farming and fishing communities.

The food program will involve the importation of 15,000 metric tons of ammosul and 13,896.42 metric tons of urea to increase rice and corn yields.

"While ammosul is also produced locally, domestic production is not sufficient to meet the total average demand of farmers. Urea is the most widely used nitrogen fertilizer for rice and corn," the Neda said, noting that the Philippines was a net importer of ammosul and urea fertilizers.

The project will also involve the importation of nine units of farm equipment to be purchased and used by the GMA Rice Program for its technology-demonstration activities in Regions 11,12 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Neda said.

Neda officer-in-charge for public investment Jonathan L. Uy said the Department of Agriculture had proposed that the 27th tranche of the KR-2 program be funded by a commodity grant assistance from the Japanese government.

Among the sectoral strategies of the KR-2 program are the development and dissemination of appropriate location-specific and cost-reducing post-harvest technologies and the reduction in the cost of production inputs and increase in the availability of certified seeds, fertilizers and irrigation. *Doris C. Dumlao*

The population problem

MINDANAO ONE



Joji Ilagan-Bian

AN ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) study has reported that Philippine population growth rate and the total fertility rate are among the highest in the Asean region. At 40 percent, Philippine poverty ranked the highest. While the preferred family size is 2.7, the actual family size is 3.7.

These staggering figures show that the population is exceeding the country's capacity to meet its people's basic needs for housing, healthcare, education, food, jobs and infrastructure. If the reported growth rate continues, the country's population will double in 29 years.

While the knowledge of the practice of family planning is universal and the attitude pertaining to it is favorable (69 percent strongly approved and 21 percent somewhat approved), such a practice has been neglected. Reproductive women's use of contraceptives is only 50 percent and among those who practice contraception, only 2 percent to 3 percent use modern methods.

In Mindanao, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao posed the highest proportion of currently married women who were not using any family planning method and those who did not want any more children or preferred space births. This is based on a 2002 Family Planning Survey of the different regions in the Philippines.

Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, the business sector has also been doing its share in promoting population management. After all, this sector has the resources and the constituency to make a significant impression on the country's population problem.

The business sector handles a large number of Filipinos. Out of the total workforce of 27.5 million (2000 DOLE figures), about 76 percent are in their prime reproductive ages of 20 to 40. At least 11.6 million Filipinos are employed in the non-agricultural business sectors like mining, wholesale and retail, electricity, construction, financing and transportation.

Family planning programs in the workplace not only help decrease the number of unintended pregnancies, but are also beneficial for everyone. Such programs protect the health and saves the lives of women: employees or the partners of male employees. Therefore, it makes economic sense for companies to provide family planning services to their employees.

A study conducted by Philippine Center for Population and Development shows that a responsible parenthood/maternal and child health (RP/MCH) program can have a significant cost benefit and can pay for itself. Some visible benefits are increased work productivity and reduced absenteeism; maternity help like advancing SSS benefits, health insurance costs; maternity leave over and above SSS benefits; paternity leave pay and temporary replacement of workers on maternity leave.

In line with the need for business participation in this endeavor, the MBC is planning a partnership with the Academy for Educational Development (AED) under the Social Acceptance Project-Family Planning (TSAP-FP). The TSAP-FP's main thrust is to help achieve greater social acceptance among the Filipino public of family planning as part of a healthy lifestyle. The project advocates a set of targeted actions to convince influential persons in the government, non-government organizations, media and entertainment, and communities to publicly support family planning.

An increasing population and a high incidence of poverty leaves 50 percent of Mindanaoans poor, compared with less than 30 percent for the rest of the Philippines. In Central Mindanao the incidence of poverty is 51 percent, and seven out of 10 families in the ARMM are living in poverty, the highest in the nation. (National Statistics Board, 2001).

The MBC is convinced that the business sector must take the lead in directing the population problem and that Mindanaoans must make a concerted effort to address the outrageous figures and alleviate the problem.

(Ms Bian is the chair of the Mindanao Business Council and the acting chair of the East Asean Business Council)

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CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	460K	450K
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		150K
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB		165K
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	400K	360K
CLUB FILIPINO		140K
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB		1 200K
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 1, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	4,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	40.5	41.5	40.5	41	1,258,800
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	10
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	32	32	32	55,200
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	28	28	372,700
Philippine National Bank	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	10,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	27	26	26.5	90,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund, Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	262,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1620	1620	1620	1620	1,880
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	289,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1180	1180	1180	1180	2,390
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.5	24	23.5	24	6,900
Diversified Fin. Network	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	27,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	625	620	625	10,100
Ipeople, Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	1,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	8,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.53	0.55	360,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	540	550	540	545	65,370
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,140,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	13	12.5	12.75	160,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20.5	19.75	20	578,700
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.9	1,715,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.38	2.38	1,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.7	2.6	2.7	2,248,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	2,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	401,100
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54	55	47,400
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	325,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
ABACUS CON RES & HDG A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	110,000
Ayala Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.25	3,744,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	2,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	310,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	20,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.57	0.54	0.54	18,150,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.095	0.095	0.0925	0.0925	1,400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17	17.25	16.75	16.75	369,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.105	0.12	250,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	492,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	40,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.86	3,120,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	310,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	680,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.14	0.23	0.14	0.23	450,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	7,550,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.21	0.26	0.21	0.26	310,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION& TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	109,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	4,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	23,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	300,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	18,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	62,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24.25	24	24	362,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	7,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	2,313,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	650,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	2,340,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	107,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	3,359,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	50,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	370,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.** were Jeremias Beloy, James Beloy, Amelia Beloy, Edgar Lee Rodriguez, Conde Claro Venus, Joel Beloy and Calixto Catbagan.

***

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought over 5.8 million of its own shares at P1.30 per share.

***

LORENZO Shipping Corp. disclosed the resignation of Joseph Kwok as director and the election of Jeremy Poh as replacement.

***

ELECTED directors of **Jardine Davies Inc.** were Timothy Bennett, Aloysius Colayco, Gil Cortez, Ben Keswick, Euney Marie Mata-Perez, James Riley and Geoffrey Thomas.

***

ANTONIO Lopa and Joseph Llao Ong were elected directors of **iVantage Corp.** They replaced resigned directors Jerry Tiu and Dexter Tiu. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Plantersbank acquisition of Region Bank approved

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved Planters Development Bank's acquisition of Region Bank, formerly known as Los Baños Rural Bank Inc.

Region Bank has gross assets of P1.6 billion and a network of 11 branches in Laguna, Batangas, and Muntinlupa.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the acquisition would boost Plantersbank's market niche as a thrift lender focusing on developmental banking.

Plantersbank said that with the acquisition, its total consolidated assets would grow to P27 billion.

"The acquisition is part of the bank's strategy to expand its reach in new markets. It will also strengthen the bank's frontline service and credit delivery particularly in areas where SMEs are thriving," said Plantersbank chair and chief executive officer Jesus Tambunting.

Among Plantersbank's institutional shareholders are the International Finance Corp., the Asian Development Bank and the Netherlands Development Finance Co. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Gov't rejects T-bill bids; peso recovers

From page B1

tary Angelo Reyes.

From 55.02 last Friday, the peso yesterday strengthened to 54.96 to a dollar.

Figueroa agreed that the volatile peso was also a factor in yesterday's attempt of the market to bring local interest rates up. Banks usually seek a premium when placing their money in treasuries when they could use it to buy dollars from the spot market.

"The volume was low and the undersubscription gave us no reason to accept the rates," Figueroa said. Last week, the auction committee led by the Bureau of Treasury also rejected all bids for two-year bonds.

Today's auction for three year bonds could end up in another rejection if banks would continue to bid unreasonably high, according to the treasury official.

Traders said yesterday's full rejection was unexpected after last week's pronouncements from National Treasurer Sergio Edeza that the government would allow local rates to go up slightly to let some steam off a jittery market.

Figueroa said yesterday's bids were much higher than what the government was willing to accept.

Scrapping of protectionist provisions in Constitution pushed

By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri yesterday joined calls to amend the Constitution, citing the need to scrap economic protectionist policies that hamper the influx of foreign investments.

"We lack investments because our Constitution is not friendly to foreign investments. We even have a 60-40 rule," said Neri, referring to provisions that bar foreigners from owning land and limit foreign ownership of businesses in key sectors such as public utilities to 40 percent.

Such restrictions on foreign business have diminished the country's competitive edge relative to its Asian neighbors, Neri warned.

"There are also people who think that being protectionist is also being nationalist," he lamented in a statement.

Only last week, the Asian Development Bank warned that the Philippines was facing another type of contagion—snowballing perceptions that the economy was becoming less competitive and less attractive to foreign investors.

The bank expressed concern that the Philippines had slipped in its ranking for corruption, competitiveness and foreign direct investment.

Neri said the Philippines should open its doors to more foreign investments in order to create more jobs for the Filipino people. He noted that many Filipinos were choosing to work abroad because the economy was not able to provide enough jobs for everybody.

The government's chief economic planner attributed the scarcity of jobs to less demand due to few investments.

"Investments create greater demand for workers. More demand results in higher pay and productivity of our workers. So it is important that we set the right policies to open up the economy to attract more investments and create more jobs," Neri stressed.

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9 FINDING NEMO
10 VIEW FROM THE TOP

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11 BAD BOYS 2
12 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

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2 LXG
3 FINDING NEMO
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6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 BAD BOYS
8 VIEW FROM THE TOP
9 PINAY PIE
10 NOON AT NGAYON
11 KEKA
12 PINAY PIE

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2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 FINDING NEMO
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 BAD BOYS 2
7 TALK TO HER
8 NOON AT NGAYON
9 PINAY PIE
10 LXG
11 ITALIAN JOB
12 KEKA

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1 ITALIAN JOB
2 FINDING NEMO
3 NOON AT NGAYON
4 PINAY PIE
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7 SPY KIDS 3-D
8 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

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2 FINDING NEMO
3 SPY KIDS 3-D
4 LXG
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
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8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
9 ITALIAN JOB
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4 ITALIAN JOB
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3 LXG
4 FINDING NEMO
5 IN LAWS
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 RESERVED
8 NOON AT NGAYON

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2 PINAY PIE
3 LXG
4 ITALIAN JOB
5 FINDING NEMO
6 NOON AT NGAYON

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2 PINAY PIE
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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2 NOON AT NGAYON
3 PINAY PIE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
5 PINAY PIE
6 SPY KIDS 3 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
7 VIEW FROM THE TOP 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
8 LXG 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
9 FINDING NEMO 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
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3 ITALIAN JOB 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 LXG 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45
5 NOON AT NGAYON 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:50
6 PINAY PIE
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

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8 VIEW FROM TOP

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THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
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THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 THE IN-LAWS
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6 VIEW FROM THE TOP

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

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Changhong Appliance: Quality products at affordable prices



RICHWELL, GETZ PIGEON PARTNERSHIP
Richwell Trading Corp. recently appointed Getz Bros. Phils. Inc. as its exclusive distributor for Pigeon Baby Care lines such as baby wipes, nursing bottles, nipples, breast pads and breast pumps. Present during the contract signing were (seated from left): Karrot Nitura, category manager, Getz; Romy Rodil, vice president/controller, Getz; Myrna Yao, chief operating officer, Richwell; Liza Yao, vice president for merchandising, Richwell. Standing (from left): Ed Mauricio, division manager, Getz and Ed Salting, NSM, Getz.

CHANGHONG Electric Co. Ltd., the biggest TV maker in China and number 2 in the world as reflected in the September 16, 2002 issue of Fortune magazine is not only a part of the Filipino home, nor is it limiting its distribution to their top of the line product which is television but also to an array of appliances to choose from.

On its third year in the Philippines, Changhong through its Master Franchise here in the Philippines offers us quality products at very affordable and competitive prices.

Changhong's success story can be attributed to its continuous research and development of consumer electronic products, a well planned large-scale production advantage meeting every buyer's demand and an already-built domestic and an international sales network being strengthened year after year to give utmost services throughout the world. Expounding the different attributes of its success story starting with its research and development, Changhong's R&D team applied its well-thought state-of-the-art technology in the area of color TV business which resulted to a full range of TV sets and video products.

Augmenting its strength with these products, the emergencies of home air conditioners, VCD/DVD players, audio products, digital satellite receivers, electronic components and alkaline batteries now reigns.

Like in any business, distribution of Changhong's productline both domestic and international sales network have been great which is evident with the percentage increase that grows every year targeting year 2003 as the year they envision Changhong to achieve a promising percentage.

Changhong's tagline 'For better, forever' in every campaign express their commitment not only to buyers and users of their products and services but also to their business partners and employees. It is their commitment to innovate better products, provide better customer benefits and create better human life.

In the Philippines, Changhong through its Master Franchise, shall impart to every Filipino through their marketing efforts lined-up for the year, shall communicate to the general public that anyone can purchase Changhong appliance because of its affordable price and whoever purchases a Changhong product, brings home a quality product to their homes.

Our lives is truly influenced with a spectrum of colors, from crayons and paint palette. Like Changhong,(translation of rainbow), the brand would love to add color to your respective homes.

Master Franchise of Changhong here in the Philippines also distributes Rainbow products now at major dealers across the country. Luzon area: SM - selected branches; Automatic Centre; Ansons; Emilio S. Lim Appliances; Royal Star Appliances (South Luzon), Savers Group (Central Luzon), Adessa (North Luzon), Magic Home Appliances (North Luzon), BHF Group (North Luzon), Tiongson (Baguio), RRS - Selected Branches (Bicol). VisMin area: Imperial Appliances (Iloilo); Nig Marketing (Iloilo-Bacolod), Appliance Centrum (Bacolod); Copinco (Manila/Cebu/Davao) and Emcor (Davao).

Philtranco inaugurates new Philkargo warehouse

PHILTRANCO'S cargo handling service, Philkargo, celebrated the inauguration of its new warehouse located at the Philtranco Central Station compound in Pasay last Aug. 15. With the opening of this new and bigger warehouse, Philkargo aims to further develop its operations by expanding its storage capacity and improving the overall quality of its service.

The event kicked off at 5:00 in the afternoon with the ceremonial ribbon cutting by Philtranco president Alejandro Yague Jr. and guest of honor Micki Trinidad representing his father, Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, for the occasion. The blessing of the new warehouse followed.

Yague delivered the welcome remarks and congratulated Philkargo for its latest milestone. This cargo service is considered a milestone in itself in the 89 long years of Philtranco's existence as a bus company. Launched in Nov. 12, 2002, Philtranco Kargo or Philkargo, is fast becoming one of the most dominant express cargo service in the Philippines today.

Able to carry almost any kind of commodity and with a capacity of 2 tons per bus, Philkargo can transport a maximum of 352 tons daily. Yague emphasized that Philkargo operates on the mission of "treating kargo like people" and making sure that the customer's cargo is "on its way in less than a day." The three major points of its service are speed, security and scope, the latter pertaining to Philtranco's wide network covering most of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The launch of the "Todo Papremyo sa Philtranco" grand raffle promo was also announced to coincide with the special occasion.

The event was attended by major clients and partners of Philkargo, as well as representatives from national and regional media.



PORK FOCUS, WORLD CLASS SOLUTIONS, FIRST CLASS PEOPLE
Cargill recently launched its most innovative solution to the problems in commercial pig farming - Pork Focus. This successful event was held at the Makati Shangri-La and was well attended by commercial hog farmers, businessmen and friends from the media. Shown in the photo are the world-class team of Pork Focus. Shown from left at the front are the heads: Dennis Garcia (regional sales manager), Dr. Loren Mapua (sales director), Dr. Stefan Langer (director for tech deployment and product services), Mark Knief (managing director), Dr. Mark Newcomb (team leader, Pork Innovation in Minneapolis, USA), Art Frio (regional sales manager), and Dr. Herbert Cabral (regional sales manager); followed by the Pork Focus advisors at the back.

Electronic payment made easy

ELECTRONIC prepaid payments provider Electronic Commerce Payment Networks (ECPay) has unveiled an electronic system that seeks to provide retailers and consumers an alternative for the traditional plastic prepaid cards.

Through electronic funds transfer at point of sale (EFT-POS) terminals, ECPay offers a collection infrastructure where consumers can complete their transactions and payments conveniently and with more security.

With a network of 183 EFT-POS terminals located at all 7-11 convenience stores nationwide, ECPay has also designed a system of reports, controls and features which are fit for large retailers expecting to lure a bigger number of customers on a 24-hour basis.

The ECPay EFT-POS terminals currently cater to consumers who are purchasing prepaid cell cards, with its largest payment recipients being Globe Telecommunications and Smart Telecommunications. These terminals are also deployed in selected ShoeMart department stores.

"Our aim in pushing for the ECPay system is not just just provide the convenience for consumers in their transactions and payments but for our large retailers and malls which we also look out as our top customers. Through our system, retailers can save a lot of money on printing cost, distribution and insurance," said Jason Briones, ECPay general manager.

Just like typical plastic prepaid cards, Briones said that ECPay prints the same pin numbers using the EFT-POS terminals. The e-pin number is printed out on three ply security paper.

The ECPay executive stressed that the clerk in charge of distributing the e-pin numbers will keep the merchant copy for record-keeping before issuing the security paper to the customer. The customer then opens it and load the number printed.

At the end of a workshift, Briones said the clerk will process a settlement where the terminal prints out a record of transactions since the previous settlement before sending the data to ECPay's servers. The clerk, he added, then reconciles this with cash in the clerk's register which is also compared for that of an x-reading.

According to Victor Paterno, ECPay managing director, their system has been already operational since April 2001 but has yet to be going full-steam until this year.

"The versatility of the ECPay system is that it can increase transactions per collection point by expanding the number of institutions accepting payments through ECPay and by increasing the types of transactions available on the ECPay network. We believe that the potential for the electronic prepaid payment market will further grow in the Philippines," Paterno said.

The ECPay system's flexibility allows the distributor of the corresponding retail shop to use a system provider that will store, disburse, and manage the pins depending on the platform. The e-pins provided to consumers are sold on several platforms ranging from web & phone (IVRS), ATM (automated teller machine) and a dedicated terminal at the retail store.

ProductFILES

Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System

DOW AgroScience is introducing Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System. The revolutionary baiting technology was developed by US-based Dow AgroSciences to get termites where they live by taking advantage of natural termite behavior. Effective and nature-friendly, Sentricon was awarded by the Clinton administration for its commitment to keep the environment safe. For inquiries, call 772-5006 or visit www.sentricon.com.





TERIYAKI BOY SPONSORS 'THE HULK PREMIER'
Teriyaki Boy, 'the first fast-casual dining Japanese restaurant' is one of the sponsors of 'The Hulk' that premiered last June 17 at the Podium. The event was organized by the Red Carpet Premiere and Event. Photo shows from left: Teriyaki Boy staff during the event, with Eric, Voltaire (marketing assistants), Marnie Angeles, marketing manager posing with 'Hulk' and Angel Aquino.



3 NEW HOMES FOR BOBSON
Bobson, one of the nation's most popular casual apparel brands has begun to put into action its 2003 market plan. Bobson recently opened 3 new boutiques in Southern and Northern Luzon. All 3 openings were packed with audiences receiving a Bobson treat courtesy of Nancy Castiliogne who personally attended all 3 ribbon cutting ceremonies together with the Bobson top management. In photo are (from left) Bobson CEO Victor Tan; Bobson celebrity endorser Nancy Castiliogne; Christopher Tiu; VP for marketing and business development Robinson Malls leasing head, Minda Carpio and Henry Ng, during the grand opening at Robinsons Sta. Rosa Place, Sta. Rosa Laguna, one of the three new Bobson boutiques that opened.

Clips

PLDT Cybermadness goes to Baguio

PLDT, in cooperation with the technology partners and the biggest PC vendors in the country, offers the lowest priced PCs and laptops, bundled with either a PLDT Vibe or myDSL Internet subscription at the PLDT Cybermadness. PLDT Cybermadness is the biggest PC-Internet sale happening on Sept. 2 to 4 at the Baguio Convention Center. It is a one-stop event where you can get brand new PCs and laptops, PLDT Internet subscription, computer accessories and even PLDT Hype phones. Don't miss this opportunity to get brand new PCs for as low as P14,999 and laptops for P54,999 when you get a PLDT Vibe or myDSL Internet subscription. All major credit cards are accepted and you can also enjoy Citibank's Paylite Zero Interest 12 month Installment Program, pay only P1,249/month for PCs and P4,583/month for laptops.

Rehabilitation of Failed Real Estate Projects

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "Rehabilitating Failed Real Estate Projects" today, 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City. Lecturer is engineer Enrico Cruz who is a licensed real estate consultant and a real estate fellow and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development fund education. Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or email urbanet@pacific.net.ph.



PANA, GOLDS GYM SLATE CELEBRITY WORKOUT WEEK
The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) will be celebrating their 45th anniversary this September. Pana has chosen Gold's Gym, its official gym to be it's partner with the celebration. Pana and Gold's Gym will be having a celebrity workout week this Sept. 13 at Gold's Gym. To announce the event, a fitness demo was conducted at Gold's Gym last Aug. 6. This was done with the sports committee members of Pana and the G8, Gold's Gym's Gorgeous Gang of Eight, composed of the country's top models from the Professional Models Association of the Phils. (PMAP), Robbie Mananquil, Nicolette Bell, Val de Santos, Ryan Villareal, Mikee Carreon, Bianca Valerio, Celeste Capulong and Paolo Caballin. Pana together with Gold's Gym believes that fitness is the best tool in countering everyday stress and ensuring productivity in our jobs.



HERITAGE, OFFICIAL HOTEL FOR PDMAEC 2003
PDMA signs up with Heritage Hotel for confirmation of the appointed official hotel of the Philippine Die and Mold Association Exhibition and Conference (PDMAEC 2003) during the launching of the PDMA website and PDMAEC 2003 last April 25, held at the Heritage Hotel. Seated from left during the signing ceremonies are: Norielle Roldan, director of marketing of the Heritage Hotel; Jaime Diaz, president of the Philippine Die and Mold Association; Dr. Antonio Arizabal, former secretary of the Department of Science and Technology.

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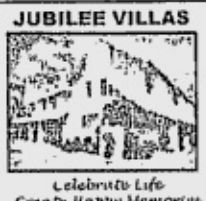
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late JULIAN Z. VILLAREAL who died on July 9, 2000 in Quezon City has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on Aug. 13, 2003 under Doc. 3643, Page 46, Book 461, Series of 2003 by Notary Public for Quezon City. Jose L. Ma. Santos
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Victorias Milling Company, Inc., Victorias City, Negros Occidental, wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the ***supply, installation and commissioning of the instruments and control needed for the automation of three (3) units vacuum pans for the Refinery Department on a full turn-key basis.***

The pre-qualification forms are available at the MCD Office, VMC Millsite and at the VMC Makati Procurement Office during office hours from **September 2-8, 2003**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P300.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification papers is on **September 11, 2003**. The pre-bid conference will be held on **September 16, 2003, 3:30 P.M. at the HRD Conference Room, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental**. The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price in the form of Cashier's/Manager's check.

For further inquiries, please contact Messrs. **Carlos S. Quiatchon** or **Dan C. Labrador** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034)399-3696 to 97, (034)399-3699 and 2309(local)**, and **Mr. Ping A. Abad** at VMC Makati Procurement Office at telephone numbers, **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062.**

Victorias Milling Company, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) CAROLINA S. DIAZ
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

(PDI–Sept. 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

COMMITTEE ON BIDS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Supreme Court invites local assemblers, manufacturers, its marketing companies and authorized dealers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of one (1) unit Passenger Bus, with passenger bus chassis, sixty (60) seating capacity, diesel engine, air-con sub-engine (diesel), radio-stereo brand new with four-way speakers and sideward sliding windows.

The approved budget for the contract is Four Million Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (4,400,000.00).

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements, terms and conditions and other particulars from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, Supreme Court after payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on September 24, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 1, Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference of pre-qualified bidders shall be on October 1, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 1, Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representative on October 8, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at 4th Floor Meeting Room 3, Multi-Purpose Bldg., Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bids or offers which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

Aug. 29, 2003.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI–Sept. 2 & 9, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of Laboratory Equipment for Institute of Chemistry (IC), Institute of Biological Science (IBS) and Institute of Animal Science (IAS) with approved budget of 3.8M, 2.6M and 3.8M respectively.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 9-12/ 8:30am-5:00pm	SPMO
Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 19, 2003 Fri./10:00 am	SPMO
Opening/submission of bids	Oct. 3, 2003, Fri./ 10:00 am	SPMO

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts, catalogues/brochures, other literatures, etc.); and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Supply and Property Management Office, UPLB.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the UPLB. The UPLB likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) TERESITA M. ESPINO
Chair, BAC

(PDI–Sept. 2 & 9, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

September 1, 2003

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to register, apply for eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the:

Name of Project	:	Upgrade of Security Infrastructure: Services for Enterprise Risk Assessment (Lot 1)
Location of the Project	:	BIR National Office Building, Diliman, Quezon City
Approved Budget	:	P5,500,000.00
Contract Duration	:	November 1 to December 31, 2003

All interested parties may register not later than **September 3 to 10, 2003.** The list of basic requirements for registration is available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Division, Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.

Submission of a written Letter of Intent and issuance of eligibility statement forms shall be on **September 10 to 16, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand One Hundred Pesos (P1,100.00). Submission of Eligibility Requirements shall be on **September 22, 2003** and the issuance of bid documents to eligible bidders shall be on **September 24 to 30, 2003**.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **October 1, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.** at the **3/F, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.**

Deadline for the submission and opening of technical and financial proposals shall be on **October 17, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.** at **3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City,** and followed by the opening of the bids

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the eligibility check of prospective bidders shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. In the examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification, the BIR shall use the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation Procedure.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-5547/926-5538 and telefax no. 928-2026 (fax), or e-mail us at nelly.tbo@bir.gov.ph until **October 16, 2003**

(Sgd.) MILAGROS V. REGALADO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept 2 2003)

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OBITUARIES

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Metro Manila, 1632
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(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

"For My yoke is easy and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:30

"I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me." John 14:6

JOAQUIN MISOGAS FERNANDO
of Pasay City

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 31, 2003 at the age of 62.

His bereaved wife **Eva**; children **Jeffrey** and **Viel**; daughter-in-law **Carmela**; grandchildren **Mica, Mariel** and **Miguel**; sisters **Sr. Ma. Angelina, R.V.M., (†)Bening** and **Tomas Cruz, Cely, Sr. Elisa, F.M.M., (†)Fe** and **Max Batong, Trude** and **Joe Ismael, Mitos, Leonor** and **Gary Palangio**; brothers **Deo** and **Herwin Marcellana, Michael** and **Nelly**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Libertad St., Pasay City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 6, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish Church, P. Burgos St., Pasay City.

"Loved with a love beyond telling,
Missed with a grief beyond all tears."

MARIO "My" YAP PETINES
Founding President, MACRO Metallurgical Engineering Corporation

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 31, 2003 at the age of 51.

His bereaved wife **Arlyn (nee Deala)**; his loving children **Martin Rafael, Lara Marie, Florante Gabriel & Diego Miguel**; his parents **Romulo Sr.** and **Bienvenida (†)**; his brothers & sisters **Bob & Nora, Nenita & Roland, Dodo & Leny, Nelson & Ching, Helen & Red, Ling & Sol, Nancy & Charles**; his nephews, nieces, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at No. 54 Times St., West Triangle Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2003, at the Paz Crematorium, Araneta Ave., Quezon City at 9:00 a.m., after the 6:30 a.m. Mass at No. 54 Times St., West Triangle Homes, Quezon City.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

"There is an appointed time for everything, and time for every affair under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

In Loving Memory
ON THE FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

ANTONIO ZARAGOZA LIM
March 11, 1937 – September 3, 1998

Tony's widow **Mariquita Bautista-Lim**; children **Tom, Louie, Missy** and Jason Brodowski, and **Bob**; sister **Eva Lim-Pasagui** and her children; and **Mariquita's** siblings **Mely, Dodie, Laly, Ted,** and **Nina** and their families request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of **Tony's** soul.

GEORGE ATHOS ADAMSON
Co-Founder of Adamson (Phil.) University

passed away on August 30, 2003 at the age of 95.
He is survived by his wife **Sofia Adamson.**



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring.. **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS

RAMON "GAT" CABRERA TONGSON
of Tahanan Village, Parañaque City

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 31, 2003 at the age of 59.

His loving wife **Ching P. Tongson**; children **Ryan, Vinny, Johnny** and **Princess**; father **Julian I. Tongson**; brothers, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Jesus the Divine Healer Parish, Tahanan Village, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2003 a the Manila Memorial Park-Sucat after the 9:00 a.m. Mass (Tahanan Village).

We design OBITUARIES for free.

ARCH. CESAR S. TORRES

Died peacefully on August 30, 2003 at the age of 81.

His loving wife **PAQUITA**; children and children-in-law **ROSALINA & OSCAR, ERNESTO (†) & LEYVI, ENRICO & SYLVIA, ROXANNE & EDGAR, EMMANUEL & TIFFANY,** his grandchildren, brother & sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 177 Dr. Pilapil St., San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 7, 2003 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Pasig City

CLASSIFIEDS

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG FUND) is inviting Contractors/ Suppliers to a public bidding for the Supply and Delivery of the following requirements:

Particulars	Agency Budget Ceiling	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference
66 units Laptop Computers	P5,171,000.00	P2,000.00	Sept. 16, 2003 2:00 p.m.
1 Lot Various Computer Peripherals	P16,764,900.00	P5,000.00	Sept. 17, 2003 2:00 p.m.
146 units Epson TMU-950 Printers (2nd Bidding)	P5,840,000.00	P2,000.00	Sept. 18, 2003 2:00 p.m.

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services starting September 2, 2003.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements & opening of bids for each requirement shall be discussed during the pre-bid conference which will be conducted at Rm. 602, 6th Floor, HDMF Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the HDMF assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Jose Maria M. Diaz/Mr. Cesar V. Racoma at 811-42-62, 811-42-79 or visit our Corporate Website at http://pag-ibig-fund.com or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph

(Sgd.) JAIME A. FABIAÑA
Executive Vice President &
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Chair BAC-ITR

(PDI-Sept. 2 & 10, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE/JUNK ITEMS, RESIDUAL DIESEL FUEL
"AS IS, WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL" BASIS
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the following items

	ITEM DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	One (1) lot approximately 172,000 kgs of various unserviceable items, consisting of 24 items such as steel plates of various thickness, pipe fittings, acid tanks, compressors cylinders, flanges, burner assembly, radiator, steel rack welding machines, boilers feed pumps, GRF, rotor blade CWP bushing pumps, weighing scale, diesel generator and other items located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 5.00/kg
2	One (1) lot of junk items consisting of corroded drums, air heater elements, junk motors vehicles and angle bars approximately 33,000 kgs., located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 3.00/kg.
3.	One (1) lot condenser tubes, 1,258 pcs. And scrap copper cables approximately 150 kgs., located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 640,500.00/lot
4.	One (1) lot of unserviceable station and automotive battery, 59 pcs. located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 2,950.00/lot
5.	One (1) lot residual diesel Fuel a) approximately 203 drums	P 324,240.00/lot

Note: The disposal of residual fuel is on a "AS IS, WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL" Basis. DRUMS NOT INCLUDED

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 p.m. of **September 16, 2003** at the Materials Management Department Office, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For bid forms at P500.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call telephone no. 922-8431 or 924-5384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4:30 p.m. on **September 15, 2003**. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department
FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)
ESM-22-005/006/017-001

August 31, 2003

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov 1987).

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders of at least Medium A for Package 4 - Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Carolina Elementary School and Cansangaya Elementary School at Can-avid Municipality Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Eight (8) Classrooms School Building at Dapdap Central Elementary School and Dolores Central Elementary School at Dolores Municipality and Repair/Rehabilitation of Two (2) Units - Five (5) Classrooms School Building at Factoria Elementary School and Oras East Central Elementary School at Oras Municipality.

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar with address at San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar from **August 31 - September 30, 2003** for a nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php 1,000.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education - Division Office of Eastern Samar, San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar on or before **September 30, 2003, 10:00 AM** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) NIÑA J. VILLALON
Asst. School Division Superintendent
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 2, 2003)

REBAP GREENHILLS CHAPTER

Offers Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review on September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25 and November 8, 2003. The review will be held at Club Filipino.

For more details, please call Bong Cruz at 740-6104 or at 0920-8007689.

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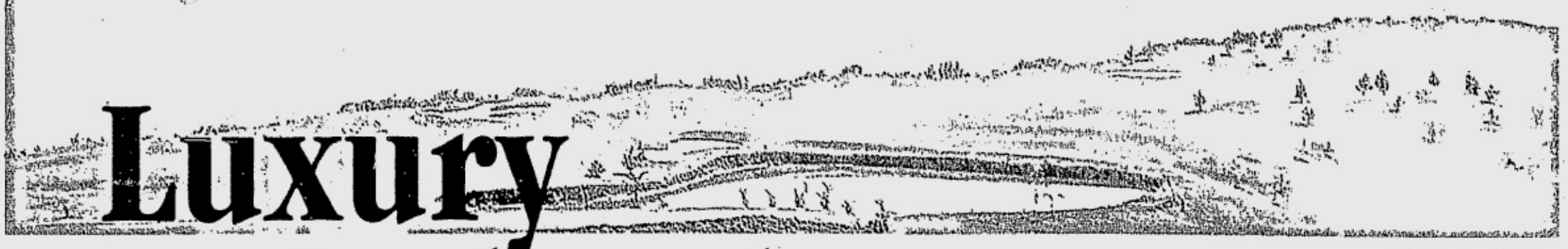
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REAL ESTATE

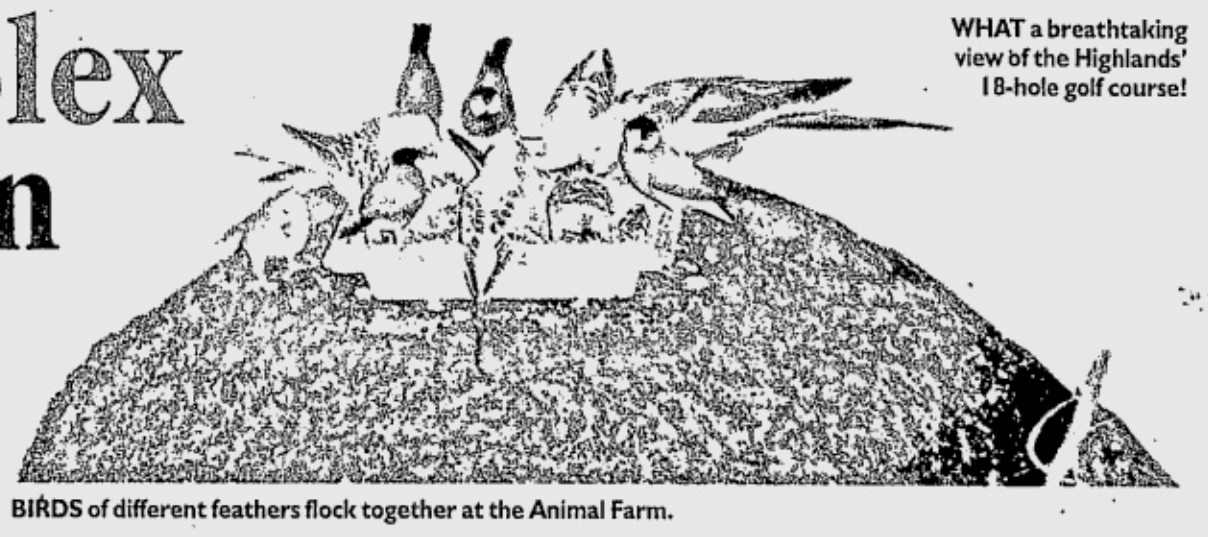
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**



Luxury recreational complex gets serious on nature



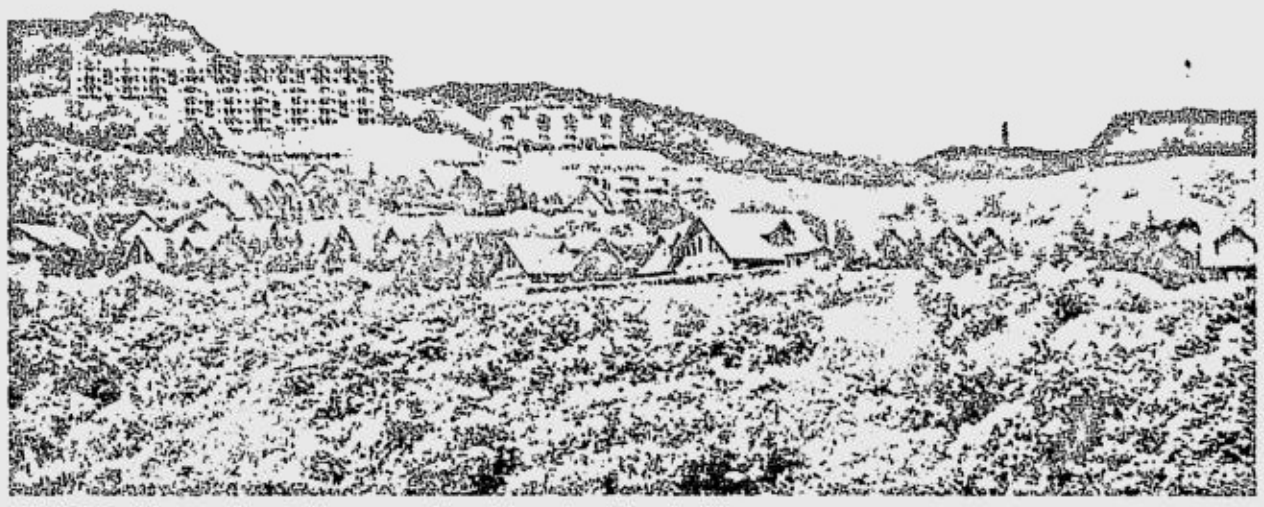
WHAT a breathtaking view of the Highlands' 18-hole golf course!

BIRDS of different feathers flock together at the Animal Farm.

By Tessa R. Salazar

AH, picturesque Tagaytay Highlands. If you ever have a chance to tag along with a member of this exclusive (for-members-only) community and catch a glimpse of the 900-hectare leisure estate offering spectacular views of Taal Lake, then leave your worries behind the urban lowlands. Stress does not belong in this postcard-perfect setting. But there's more to Tagaytay Highlands than just cleansing one's body and soul.

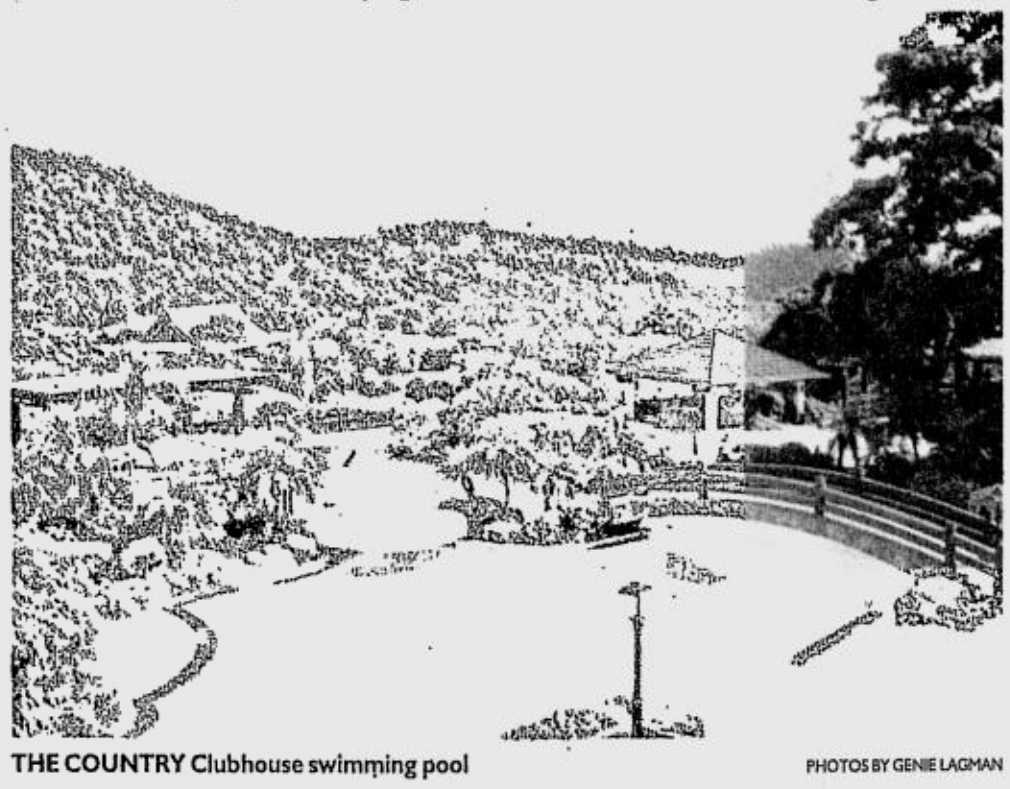
Behind the 6,820-yard championship golf course, the sports facilities, luxury log cabins, Swiss chalet-styled condominiums and Spanish-Mediterranean houses, are gestures of respect and gratitude for the environment. Mother Nature, after all, is a permanent member of Tagaytay Highlands, and she holds a powerful seat in the club's hierarchy.



THE LOG cabins are dwarfed by new residential condominium buildings.



THE WOODLANDS, site of luxury loghomes made of solid Western Red Cedar logs



THE COUNTRY Clubhouse swimming pool

PHOTOS BY GENIE LAGMAN

Green over the years

Its project developer Belle Corporation's mindset has turned green over the years. The community's garbage, for instance, is turned into fertilizer for its new organic farm estate Plantation Hills. A volunteer group from the company hikes down the many pathways from the Highlands to neighboring villages to pick up garbage thrown by careless individuals. And in barren patches, the developer intends to plant a million trees.

And Belle Corp. is doing it ever so subtly. You won't see billboards admonishing residents to be mindful of their wastes. Tagaytay Highlands is so clean and green—everything in its proper place—even the well-paved roads seem to be dusted meticulously every so often.

Henry Ocier, one of the consultants for the Highlands-wide ecological program and special assistant to the chair of Belle Corp., reveals even the process turning wet garbage into fertilizer uses only all-natural, no-chemical methods. This process, he says, is called vermiculture.

Says Ocier: "We store these (wet garbage) in a centralized pit to produce compost for two to three weeks. The compost, mixed with mineral-rich leaves of other plants, is food for worms. The waste of the worm becomes refined, organic fertilizer that could be used to grow plants."

Rudy Aninipot, assistant vice president for property management and chief engineer for the Highlands, says one could call this process a "reconditioning" of the soil. The bulk of Tagaytay Highlands' wastes, however, are recyclable in nature. Plastic and aluminum are regularly sold to scrap dealers. Cleaning up the Highlands' environs is an adventure in itself, Aninipot relates.

The group hiking to clean up littered pathways takes its volunteers through valleys, streams and rivers. The group then segregates the "loot" gathered from such trips.

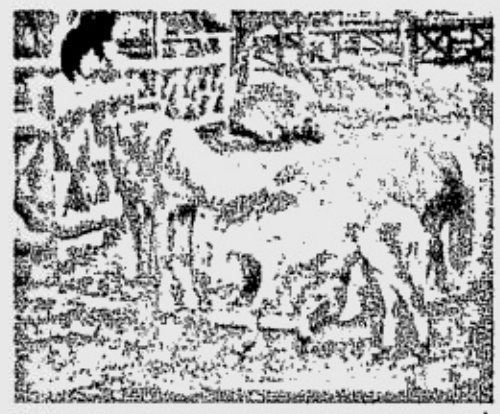
"We do the trip periodically. Perhaps, in two years, all the pathways will be cleaned up," says Ocier.

Walls of friendship

The Highlands-wide ecological team intends to plant one million nontimber trees "to add biodiversity" in the Highlands' surrounding forest areas. "Tagaytay Highlands believes that the walls that would divide it from less fortunate neighbors would have to be walls of friendship and not walls of attrition. That's how we're getting into community development.

"This part of the development is actually a bold step toward something new. This new aspect of living, we hope, would be picked up and taken to the cities," says Belinda Lim Herrera, vice president for marketing of Belle Corp.

Mother Nature is a permanent member of Tagaytay Highlands and she holds a powerful seat in the club's hierarchy



A KID familiarizes with three miniature horses at the Animal Farm.



Tempted to build on your own?

(Second of two parts)

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

OUR previous column dealt on the difficulty and problems of building one's home without the help of a competent professional. Listed below are the skills and resources that an experienced builder has. If you think that you have them, then maybe you should start your contracting and homebuilding business. But if you don't, then leave the construction of your house to the professionals.

BUILDING DREAMS



It is important to remember that a builder has the staff, systems and structure that will deliver to you the home of your dreams. Having these skills involves a lot of hard work, experience, education, training, money, and of course a few mistakes.

A reliable builder has:

• **Skills**—Do you have the necessary architectural and engineering skills to build on your own? Remember that a builder is always concerned with quality, cost, delivery and safety of the construction project. If you do not have the skills and experience with these, then you are exposing yourself to a lot of risks.

• **Equipment**—Building a home does not only require a skilled crew. It also requires a lot of construction equipment that are needed for the safe and efficient completion of the job. If you build on your own, then where will you get the equipment? You can either buy or rent. If you buy, then what will you do with it after the project is completed? Perhaps you can sell them at a bargain price after the project.

• **Formworks**—Building a home requires formworks to support the concreting of the floor slabs, columns and beams. Most contractors have already invested in formworks and when they use these for your project, the charge will be minimal. If you build on your own, then you will have to buy or rent formworks. To give you an idea, the formwork costs for a regular sized two-story house on a 300-square meter lot would be about P100,000 to P150,000. Ask yourself on what you will do with the formworks after you have finished with the job. If you buy wood as formworks, then you will have enough firewood for your barbeque parties for the next three years. Again, you will end up losing money.

• **Volume discounts**—If you build on your own, you cannot take advantage of volume discounts that professional contractors enjoy. A contractor can go after volume discounts when it comes to the purchase of construction materials of your home. If you are a first time buyer and negotiate at a hardware store, you will never be able to get a better discount than a contractor that has done decades of business with them. Most contractors who save money by buying in bulk would pass on the benefits to the owners.

• **Pool of skilled workers**—A contractor who has been in the business has access to a pool of skilled workers. If you would just want to build on your own, chances are the construction crew members that you will get are the ones who do not have any job at the moment. Remember that the most efficient and highly skilled workers are never out of work. And most of them are with builders who are very busy themselves. So the next time that you talk to a construction foreman who tells you that he is free now to build your home, think again.

• **Experience**—A builder who will build your home has "been there and done that." Builders have gone through a lot of site conditions and they know how to deliver to you a satisfactory home. If you build on your own, then it will be a learning experience for you but the experience might be too expensive and you might lose too much money in the process.

• **Knowledge of design and safety codes**—This is the part in which most homeowners know little about. Designing a home follows design standards and processes according to government codes and regulations. Having a professional designer and builder will ensure that you get the best that your family deserves.

• **Knowledge of the construction process itself**—Building a home is a step by step scientific process that requires quality measurements and checks at certain milestones. A builder knows all of these to ensure that you have a well-built home.

• **Finances**—Responsible builders have their own funds to finish their project even though they are losing money. They would rather lose money than ruin their reputation. Builders who usually run away from contracts are the ones who do not have the emergency funds to finish a project.

• **Quality procedures**—Quality checks and procedures are integrated in the builder's operational process. They have a scientific way of assessing the quality and quantity of the materials that are placed in your home. This can be as simple as knowing the exact amount of water to mix with the cement and can be complicated and technical as the type, diameter and length of electrical wiring that have to be installed.

• **Training and education**—A builder is trained and educated to deliver to you a home that fits your requirements. The government gives licenses to engineers to enable to practice their profession. Not everyone can simply just design and build. It has to be done by licensed professionals.

• **Access to other professionals**—There is no such thing as a flawless and perfect construction job. Occasionally, problems that were totally unexpected will appear during construction. Your builder can easily access other professionals who will be able to help solve these problems.

• **Liability**—A construction work can damage adjacent property. A common problem is during excavation for the foundations, the perimeter walls of adjacent pieces of property collapse. Again, if you build on your own, do you want to handle all of these headaches?

• Guarantee—Builders guarantee their work. If you just ask anybody to do the work for you, where will you look for them if some defects occur within a short time?

Final Note. The skills, systems and organization that a builder has are very critical to the successful completion of a construction project. Not everyone can design and build homes for these have to be done by a qualified professional. It is best to ask the services of the professional of your choice.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph. Or call 952-0684.)



Task force bares success in application approval

By Charles E. Buban

A TASK force jointly created by the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association and the Department of Agrarian Reform last April announced a breakthrough in several of developers' pending conversion and exemption applications before the DAR.

Currently monitoring 67 cases, the SHDA-DAR task force, reported the approval of 42 applications, which are equivalent to some 31,000 housing units.

These units are expected to be in the market by the end of the year.

"This is a positive development for us developers who have less than 10 months to beat the deadline of reaching 200,000 housing units by the end of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's term," said SHDA national president Marilu Alferez, who is also Robinsons Homes Inc. VP and general manager.

Much-improved relations

According to Alferez, the rest of the applications are either being processed or just completing additional requirements.

One of the factors that affect developers' housing unit production is the DAR's rigorous evaluation and approval of pending applications.

"But because of a much-improved DAR-SHDA working relationship, I strongly believe we can now move on at a much faster rate," Alferez said.

The SHDA national president lauded the task force for instituting an express lane for SHDA members that significantly improved processing time of applications.

"Since the SHDA can assure the good standing of its members, the DAR now has a much easier time evaluating our members' applications," she said.

Scheduled consultation

In a related development, Jeffrey Galan, director and overall head of the DAR Center for Land Use, Policy, Planning and Implementation (Cluppi) secretariat announced the task force's scheduled consultation with developers.

The task force is planning to revise the rules on exemption of lands from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program coverage and this consultation will give developers the opportunity to incorporate their suggestions and comments.

SHDA Chair Jesus Atencio said this development was an outcome of an earlier workshop of the two groups seeking to fast track the mass housing program in the country.

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Expert talks on VAT impact on banks, real estate sector at Creba workshop

LAWYER Victorino C. Mamalateo, senior tax consultant of the Punongbayan & Araullo accountancy firm, will give an update on taxation in real estate transactions, including the imposition of the value added tax (VAT) on banks, brokers and dealers, and other professionals, before the second preconvention workshop of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) on Sept. 5.

The forum will be held at 1-5 p.m. at the Podium 4, fifth floor RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The initial Creba preconvention workshop was on "New Concepts and Strategies in Real Estate Marketing" on July 18;

Mamalateo will discuss the effects of VAT on the banking sector and the real estate industry, and on all other professionals which took effect in January 2003. Other topics are definition of and distinctions between ordinary and capital assets, who are deemed real estate dealers, expanded withholding tax on sales of real property, including capital assets.

Sammy G. Valencia chairs the Creba preconvention committee with members Avelina Acuña, Florante Ofrecio, Choy Alas and Rose Basa. The committee is under Cluster 7 of the Creba annual convention committee under lawyer Luis Pangilinan Jr. as overall vice chair. The Creba 30th national convention will be held at the Mimosa Estate, Clark Field on Oct. 2-4 jointly with the Housing and Urban Coordinating Council.

The tax expert is a former assistant commissioner for assessment and special operations service of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. He has 36 years of extensive professional experience in the tax practice, 30 years of which as a career service professional in the BIR.

He closely worked for several commissioners and deputy commissioners as the head revenue executive assistant with prime responsibility of reviewing the papers for their signature and coordinating various projects. He helped formulate fiscal policies, draft revenue measures and prepare revenue regulations, rulings, circulars and other issuances.



THE RCBC Plaza: the site of the Creba workshop

He was chair of the committee tasked to revise and consolidate regulations and other issuances on income taxation. He was a member of the VAT executive committee that studied and drafted the original and expanded VAT laws.

Mamalateo holds the certificate of master of laws and international tax program from Harvard University (1989); master of business administration for practitioners, University of the East (1983); bachelor of laws, Manuel L. Quezon University (1971), bachelor of business administration in accounting, University of Manila (1960).

He was a professor at the UP college of business administration in 1985-1988 and the UP college of law in 1990-1994, and in 2002 up to the present.

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How to decorate with indoor plants

BUYERS of residential condominium units at The Columns Ayala Avenue are in for an information-filled seminar series on indoor plant decorating and growing.

The series is provided by the Community Innovations Inc., an Ayala Land subsidiary which offers The Columns Ayala Avenue, a three-tower condominium complex in a prime Makati location.

It is held in cooperation with the Federation of Cutflower and Ornamental Plant growers of the Philippines Inc. and as part of CII's sponsorship of the federation's 8th Philippine Floriculture Congress and Trade Exhibit.

CII president Angela de Villa Lacson said the CII looks forward to the holding of the seminars which will further enhance buyers' enjoyment of their living spaces at The Columns.

The Columns is CII's response to the needs of young urban achievers for quality, healthy and affordable dwelling with major pluses such as great a location—at the heart of the Makati central business district—and unparalleled amenities and features.

"The sight of flowers and greens in homes is truly refreshing and promotes healthful and tasteful living which is consort with the total concept of The Columns Ayala Avenue for young urban achievers," said Lacson.

As a symbol of cooperation between CII and the FCOPGPI, CII project development manager Grace Manankil-Sta. Ana received from PFC chair and FCOPGPI founding president Cecille Dinglasan a floral table centerpiece during rites held at The Columns model units showroom in Gloricita 3.

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BUSINESS

RP to compete in sugar market

THE PHILIPPINES, a net sugar importer since 1993, will start exporting sugar this year or next due to a bumper crop, a senior official said on Monday.

The Philippines has allocated 8 percent of its estimated raw sugar output of 2.16 million to 2.27 million tons in the 2003/04 crop year to the United States and other markets.

"This is good news. We are exporting sugar once again to the world market," James Ledesma, administrator of the state agency Sugar Regulatory Administration, told Reuters.

Of the 172,800 to 181,600 tons of sugar allocated for overseas sales in the current crop year, he said half would go to the United States and the rest to other markets.

The country's crop year runs from September to August.

It will be the first time since 1992 that the Philippines ships sugar to other markets.

Reuters

Gov't conducts tariff review

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCALLY made finished products will be the first to reap the benefits of the move by the Department of Trade and Industry to align tariff rates to favor domestic industries.

DTI Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the tariff review would initially focus on 200 out of 1,350 locally produced product lines to see how local industries could be further strengthened.

"The government is finalizing its comprehensive tariff review with finished products as priority in order to provide relief to locally made finished products," he said in a statement.

Roxas said the ongoing tariff review, which is conducted by member-agencies of the Tariff Commission—including the DTI—aims to increase the 2003 applied tariffs on imported products to 1998 levels due to the perceived ill effects of low tariffs on local industries.

"The general direction that the government wants to achieve is to take tariffs to levels favoring the items in the domestic industry and consequently strengthen their competitive advantage," he added.

The DTI initiated the review of the country's tariff rates following its own admission that it has reduced rates much faster than other countries have, thus sacrificing the competitiveness of local industries for the sake of embracing free trade.

Various industries have long complained of the government's policy to set applied tariff rates at levels much lower than the bound rates it committed to the World Trade Organization.

The Federation of Philippine Industries, in particular, said the reduction of applied tariff rates to low levels was one of the major factors—together with high power and labor costs—that made local industries uncompetitive.

Bound rates are the maximum tariff rates that a country can impose on imported products as dictated by the WTO.

Applied rates, which can be lower than bound rates, are the actual rates imposed by a country.

In the case of the Philippines, the government voluntarily set the applied rates at levels much lower than the bound rates.



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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Health and marriage go together like horse and carriage

A good marriage can give you a reason to stay alive, but a bad one increases your chances of getting sick by 35 percent

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan



MANY men fear being "under the *saya*" upon getting married, but according to scientific studies, the "influence" their wives have over their lifestyle habits makes them live longer. Okay, I know what some of you smart alecks out there are going to say—the "suffering" that comes after the engagement ring and the wedding ring only makes it seem like men are living longer.

But, seriously, a 20-year study from the University of Warwick has found that marriage actually causes changes in a man's brain, making him feel more contented. The study said a married man could expect to live an average of three years more than a bachelor.

Other studies are finding that marriage is beneficial to the health and well being of not just men but women, too.

Of course, it depends on what kind of a marriage you have. If your marriage is like hell on earth, it will eventually take its toll on your health, not to mention your disposition and outlook in life. A good marriage, meanwhile, will help you live a long and healthy life.

Research confirms that married people live the longest, followed by people who have never married, while separated and divorced people have shorter lives. It appears that it is better not to have married at all than to have entered into a bad marriage.

Social control theory

"Social control" is the politically correct term for the "under the *saya*" theory that researchers say is one reason married people live healthier lives. Studies show that people's lifestyle habits change for the better after they get married. Researchers call it living a more "orderly lifestyle." No more late-night parties, out-of-control drinking binges and skipped meals. It may sound boring but in the long run, marriage is definitely better for your health.

Social support theory

The other reason is called the "social support theory." Human beings are hard-wired to seek out the support and approval of other human beings.

Clinical psychologist Robert Coombs of the University of California in Los Angeles told Scout News that if a marriage is good, having a supportive partner to listen and always be there is like having a live-in psychiatrist.

Some people may not like to hear this, but researchers have found that even gay couples and unmarried heterosexual couples living together reap the same health benefits as traditionally married couples as long as the partners are exclusively committed to the relationship and living together harmoniously.



ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

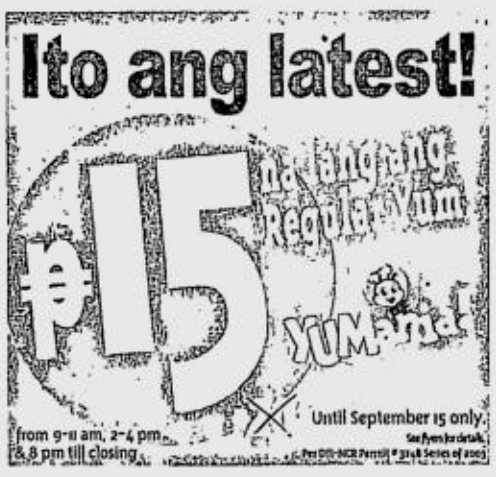
When your husband makes your blood boil

The emotional health of your marriage can be an accurate barometer of your physical and mental health. Take, for example, blood pressure. In a study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine, Canadian psychiatrist Brian Baker found that unhappily married people with mild hypertension had higher blood pressure readings in the presence of their spouses and lower readings when they were away from them.

After a couple of years of remaining in their deteriorating marriages, they had a thickening of the left ventricle of their heart, a condition that can lead to heart failure. The happily married people actually had lower blood pressure readings when they were with their spouses.

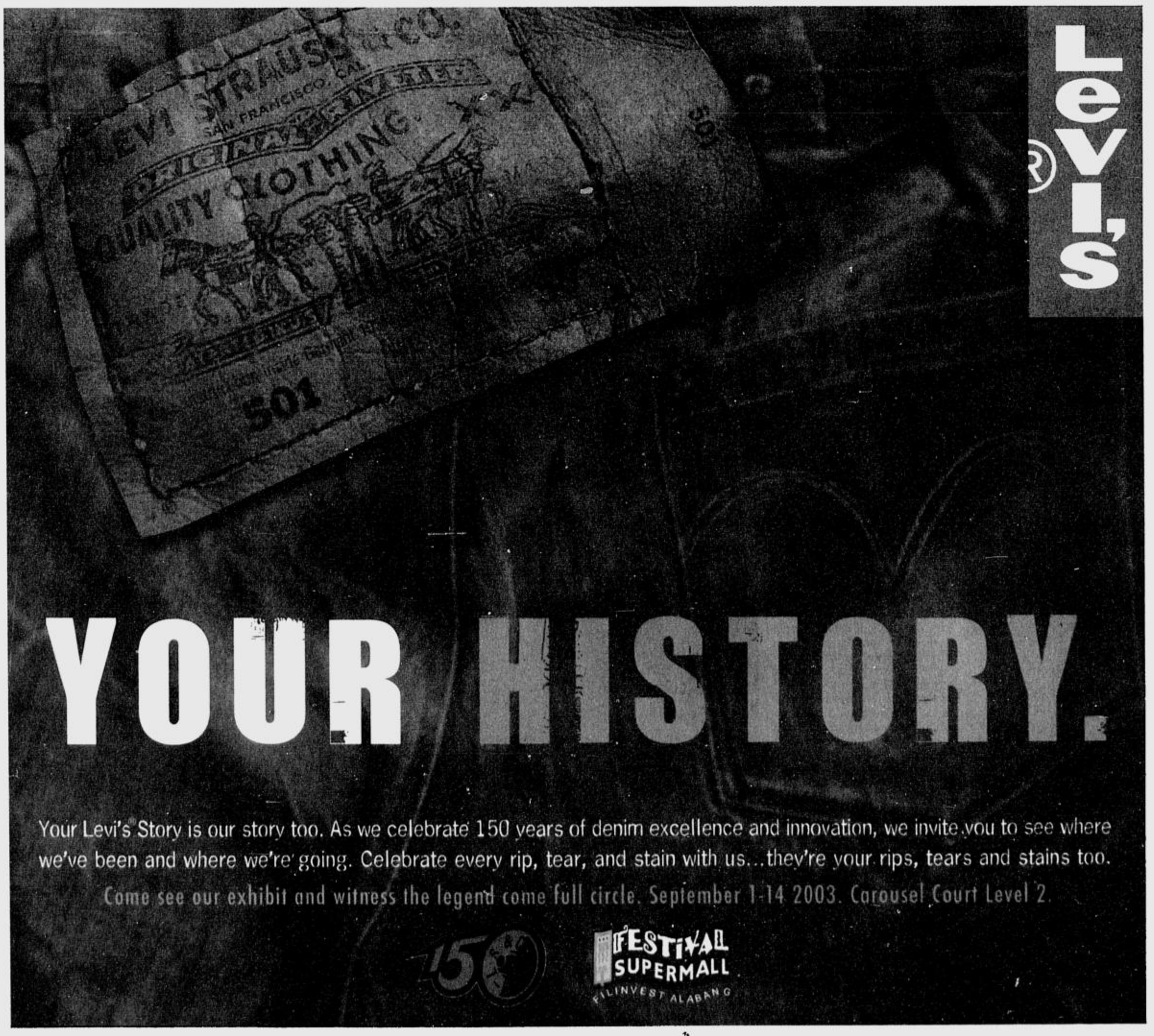
With scientific evidence like this, I would

HOW/ C3











WHEN socialites mix: Elizabeth Kabler, Yue Sai Kan and Phyliss Redstone



JOLLY Benitez with Jim Lewis, Carl Tridemann and Dan Weintrob



SIMON Haldern with Joanne de Asis, Ambassador Lauro Baja and Mr. and Ms Merril Haldern, chair of Charter House

Young artist impresses New York's chi-chi crowd



ROSE petals on the ground for a rich harvest



PRESIDENT of Filinvest Land Inc. Joseph Yap with wife Joji



TONI Gregory and Beth Micaller



NESTOR de Villa gets his basket of super fresh lettuce.



SANING Ople with Lovely Romulo and Jane Honasan



LATE arrival: Gina de Venecia, Helen and Tessie Aquino-Oreta

IT WAS a cool evening that saw the grand opening of the successful fifth solo exhibit of the super gifted miss, **Jana de Asis-Benitez**, at the chic 15 East 66th St., New York.

The venue was the official residence of the Philippine ambassador to the United Nations, and the townhouse, with its Old World grandeur, was being opened for the first time to all our Filipino artists.

"We shall keep these doors open to all Filipino talents that do our country proud," a beaming **Norma Papa** told New York's upper-crust art lovers.

The prodigious Jana, now 17 years young, started exhibiting her art at age 12 at the Ayala Museum and has not looked back since. Through the years, she has had annual shows in Cosmo Manille, always to a sell-out crowd. This is her second show in New York.

The city's chi-chi glittering invitees mingled with the heavyweight business namedroppables and art connoisseurs who were all amazed at the prowess and evolving style of this young and unassuming artist.

Believe *moi*, *palanggas*, her portraiture leaves one awed at her skill. You can almost feel the personality of her subject matter radiate through the canvas.

Jana's "Wind Beneath Her Wings" had her elder sister, **Gaia**, who superbly arranged this event. Her proud parents, Globe Capital Partners' woman of substance, **Joanne de Asis**, and businessman **Joly Benitez**; grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins were all *tres visibles*, giving support to our young artist.

Luminous namedroppables everywhere like Madame **Peter Goulandris**, wife of the Greek shipping magnate; Madame **Phyliss Redstone**, wife of Viacom chair **Somer Redstone**; **Henry Luce**; **Paul Volker**, chair of the Federal Reserve; **Barbara Tober**, chair of the Museum of Arts and Design; **Angela Rich**, editor of In Style magazine; **Suzanne Fiennes**, cousin of sibling actors **Ralph** and **Joseph**, who owns the castle used in the film "Shakespeare in Love"; **Jonathan** and **Somer Farkas** of Alexanders, were just a dash of the invitees.

The exhibit officially opened after the ribbon snipping by **Judy Araneta Roxas**; Senator **Loren Legarda**; Paul Volker and **Prof. Tim Ingland**, the art department head at Deerfield Academy, from where Jana just graduated.

New crowd-drawer

It was a hectic week although the hopping around was getting monotonous. Hardly anyone stays put. It was different, however, when many of the high and a dash of low-profile gourmands flocked to one of the best Spanish restos in town—Casa Armas' new Greenbelt 3 branch!

Already a few months in existence, the Greenbelt 3 haunt always draws many of the city's movers and shakers in business and politics, to the smiles of owners **Jesus Armas** and hardworking women **Laura Lim** and **Lorraine Lim Aguila**. Businessman **Rante Aguila**, Lorraine's father-in-law, stood at the resto's uniquely designed door welcoming his pals and some namedroppables, *palanggas*.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

Mr. Makati himself, dynamic Mayor **Jejomar Binay**, led the ribbon snipping together with his pal, well-loved and super popular simpatico Spanish Ambassador **Ignacio Sagaz**. From the smile on the face of Jesus Armas, the *señor* behind the great Casa Armas legend, it was clear he was satisfied with how he has changed the image of Spanish cuisine in the country.

Serene southern beauty **Bebot Laurel**, Rajo's elegant mom, made a fashionable entrance on time with some of her pack and had the thrill of being the first to sample Señor Armas' seemingly endless *tapas*, which were highly praised by alta sociedad personality **Mely Hechanova**, vivacious southerner **Lucille Villanueva**, **Cory Alindogan**, **Chickie Locsin**, **Ditas Laurel** and Mr. Gourmand himself, **Fred Fricke**.

A male castanet performer, a rondalla and a flamenco performer kept the guests' spirits going higher. The show was capped by popular band Sabor Latino's performance.

It was one happening where *moi* witnessed many of Manille's body-conscious, perfumed pack attack the food and, with the servings they got, you'd think it was their last supper, *dahlings*.

Hot, hot businessman **Carlos** and **Marissa del Rosario** and world-traveling businessman, Mr. Asian Spirit himself, **Noel Oñate** with his attractive wife **Marianne Uy** and their gang, couldn't get enough of Casa Armas' to-die-for-twice food—the mmm, soo good *Asado de Pollo en su Jugo* (Armas' famed roasted chicken) and those poor, little selected piglets, deliciously known as *Cochinillo ala Horno ala Castellana* and Paella Valenciana, natch!

With so many important hot names arriving and staying, the tables were full. Some tableware disappeared faster than anyone could bat an eyelash! It's just to show you that even some moneyed ones do take what they call "souvenirs." Oh, well.

Yes, *palanggas*, Casa Armas is one of the restos where, if you don't smell the delicate aroma, they ain't got it.

Helen Sotto's birthday

It was a breezy night when no less than **Liza Alvendia**, reputed for her fabulous dinners, hosted a super fun birthday bash for the popular wife of Sen. **Tito Sotto**—alabaster beauty, **Helen Sotto**, dahlings. The gorgeous Sotto gals—**Apples**, **Lala** and **Ciara**, who looked more like Helen's sisters, arrived in chic black-and-white outfits.

It was great to see women at the dinner in spite of their husbands' different political leanings. Fashionably on time were **Lovely Romulo** and her eye-catching daughter, **Mons Romulo Tantoco**; **Virgie Barbers**, **Jane Honasan**, **Susan Ople**, **Mila Drilon**, **Lyn Jaworski** and Helen's school gang, **Polly Aquino** and **Jean Muniz**.

Liza's sumptuous buffet had, for starters, chilled mango salad, Thai style; delightful *ubod* salad, *bachoy* with shiitake and mushroom salad. The main course consisted of spicy *kaldereta*, *ube* crepe tart with stuffed ham, grilled lamb *longanisa* and individual salmon fillets. Joining in late-ish and in time for dessert were our *palanggas*, stylish **Gina de Venecia** and dedicated lady for the underprivileged, **Tessie Aquino-Oreta** who, among others, forgot their calorie-counting and dug into the yummy chilled mango tapioca puddings, plus more. The gang had so much fun they asked Helen "not to forget us on your next birthday." Helen promised!

Nusa Dua harvest

There were clear blue skies, chirping birds, and a cool breeze on a Saturday morning when the Alabang pack discovered a piece of Nusa Dua—right smack in the middle of Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, would you believe! It was a fabi concept of mega achiever **Andrew Gotianun Jr.**, who has a Balinese-inspired modern residential farm-estate developed in Tanza, Cavite.

To give the farming society a chance to preview what Nusa Dua was all about, dahlings, mover **Bibot Gotianun** had the brilliant idea of having a replica of a five-square meter farm lot with a beautiful, eye-catching Balinese-style furnished rest house, superbly done by **Tess Balaguer** of Home and Beyond, at the Filinvest metropolis.

In their stylish weekend fashions, *palanggas*, "frustrated farmers" breezed in like **Carmita Francisco**, **Menchu Henson**, **Fritz** and **Chiqui Server**, **Daidita Villaraza** and **Marilou Velez**, **Marvi Salas**, **Teen Chavez** and the Gotianun heirs, **Andrew** and **Joji**, with husband **Joseph Yap**, president of Filinvest Land Inc. Renowned architect **Bobby Mañosa** checked out the Balinese architecture.

Naturellement, hot luminaries in the world of horticulture, organics and agriculture were all *tres* visible, starting with organics lady **Beth Micaller**.

The fun bunch led by **Maur Aquino Lichauco** was chatting about weeds (not the kind you smoke, silly) while my guru, **Lydia Castillo**, took notes for her fantastic culinary experiments.

If you're around Filinvest Corporate City, check out the colorful banners and the Balinese rest house with a farm full of watermelons, vegetables and yummy Chinese *kangkong*—that's what Nusa Dua is all about.

It is open for inspection daily, *palanggas*, or call 7231669 or 7231671. You can also visit their website at www.filinvest-land.com.

Welcome to Bali—Filinvest style.



LOUIE and Cee Black with Joanne de Asis and lady of the hour Jana Benitez



JUDY Roxas, Norma Baja, Jana and Sen. Loren Legarda after the ribbon-snipping





ANGELA Rich, editor of In Style magazine, with Elaine Newton Gutmans



EUGENIA de Olazabel, Yue Sai Kan and Tunting Cruz-Matters



SIGOURNEY Weaver



IT'S champagne for Joanne and Meryl Streep.



THE GANG: Leah Puyat with Casa Armas young shaker Laura Lim with Richi Ortega and Anton Baretto



THE RICH and the famous. Irene Marcos-Araneta and husband Greggy



HEADTURNERS and achievers in their fields: Agnes Huibonhoa, Ivy Almario and Ching Cruz



HOTSHOTS of the Indian community: Monica Hariani with Baby Murjani, Kumar Harjani and fun couple Nicky and Manju Buxani



HELEN and her daughters Lala, Apples and Ciara



THE BIGGIES of the night: Lorraine Aguila, Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz, Mayor Jejomar Binay and Jesus Armas

Why water can save your life

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



THE HUMAN body contains over 75 percent water. The human brain is 75-percent water, blood is 92 percent, bones are 22 percent, muscles, 75 percent, and brain cells, 82 percent.

Water is an indispensable part of our lives, but only one percent of the earth's water is available for human use.

We need water to live, help remove toxins and waste, breathe as it moistens air on inhalation, exhale, replace our lost sweat, prevent dehydration.

- Approximately 90 percent of the world's population is chronically dehydrated.
- On hot days, sweating causes us to lose as much as 16 glasses of water daily.
- Thirst indicates a state of dehydration.
- Not drinking enough water can result in dry, itchy skin, feelings of lethargy and tiredness, migraines, poor kidney function, depression.
- We lose as much water sleeping as we do when we are awake.
- The body needs as much water (six to eight glasses daily) in cold weather as in hot.
- Mild dehydration slows down metabolism by three percent, brain memory by two percent.
- It also causes trouble in focusing and concentration.
- Just five glasses of water a day can decrease the risk of colon cancer by 45 percent, breast cancer by 79 percent and bladder cancer by 50 percent.

Water is the body's transport system. It breaks down food, keeps our body temperature balanced and our skin elastic. We can live for weeks without food, but only a few days without water.

Water is alive

Very simply, water is a chemical compound made up of two types of atom: one atom of oxygen and two of hydrogen. Water can affect us in any level. If you consider the fact that we are 75-percent water, then it will also affect some fairly major changes within us, both physically and mentally.

Water's electrical charge makes it flexible. And along with water, every other organism cell or atom on this earth also has an electrical charge. This means that water is affected by every person, item, energy field, idea or emotion that it comes in contact with. It has its own electrical vibration and resonance. And if you put water next to anything, it will respond to the object's vibration or resonance in some way or another. This is called the memory of water. Therefore, it is worth remembering the fact that we can alter the state of water and water can alter our own state.

As we are electromagnetically charged, water will have profound effects on us—all the time. So, the next time you drink a glass of water, do it with a positive frame of mind.

Controversy on water

What kind of water should one drink? It depends on what you believe to be true. Water can be either alkaline, acidic or neutral.

There are opposing schools of thought. Some say any kind of water is good for you. Others say only alkaline water is safe.

Mineral water is tapped from natural springs and underground sources. It contains minerals and nutrients. It is neither acidic nor alkaline and considered neutral.

Distilled water undergoes a process that makes it mineral-free and becomes an active absorber when it comes in contact with air, rendering it acidic.

Alkaline water through a charcoal filter renders it ideal for daily drinking and is considered an important factor in delaying the aging process. It has more atoms of oxygen than general water. Alkaline water will change the acid waste accumulated in the body, making them neutral.

Acid wastes cause aging and diseases. It is said that a bad diet, meaning an acidic one (composed mainly of meat and carbohydrates, sugar and fried foods) will build up acid waste. Acid wastes are stored in the body and can remain there for decades. Stress, mental/emotional and physical, can depress a person.

Dr. Keiichi Morishita, in his book "The Hidden Truth of Cancer," states that if the blood develops a more acidic condition, then these acidic wastes have to be deposited in the body. And if the process continues, these areas steadily increase in acidity and the body's cells begin to die or become abnormal/malignant. Drinking water with high alkaline PH can de-acidify the body and help prevent cancer. Other benefits of drinking alkaline water are prevention of formation of kidney stones, gout arthritis and migraines.

Start your day right

1. Take one cup of warm water with a squeeze of lemon juice or ½ tsp apple cider vinegar.
2. Take a refreshing shower with warm water.
3. Use an exfoliating scrub with eucalyptus and peppermint oils (three drops of each with three tablespoons of olive coco virgin or almond oil). Add three tablespoons of salt if you don't have a loofah or scrub glove.
4. Shower with cold water.
5. Jump three times before you get dressed.
6. Affirmation: "I am alive, well and joyful."

Love and light!

Excerpted from: "How To Get Well" by Dr. Zolthan P. Rona, "Alkalanize Or Die" by Dr. Theodore Baroody, "Water Detox" by Jane Scrivner

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Wall overhead stretch with ball



STRETCHES the sides of your upper back and abdominals

Equipment:
Wall and stability ball

Exercise technique:
1. Place the ball against the wall at chest level. Step an arm's length away with your feet together.
2. Keeping your heels on the floor, slowly push the ball up the wall as you start to lean forward at an angle.
3. Hold for 10-20 seconds.
4. Repeat if necessary.

Performance tips:
1. The stability ball helps you get into a deeper stretch because you can step farther away from the wall and achieve a greater leaning angle.
2. Stretch upward at a diagonal angle. Do not allow your lower back to arch.
3. Keep your shoulders relaxed while you hold the stretch.

Health and marriage . . .

From page C1

not be surprised if, in the future, the "my-marriage-is-bad-for-my-health" defense will become a valid justification for separation or divorce.

There is bad news, though, for those with normal blood pressure. Baker says that although further studies still have to confirm it, he does not believe that marital problems alone can actually cause high blood pressure in people who are already not predisposed to it.

But not to worry, there are many more health conditions associated with marital problems that you can use in your defense.

More health conditions linked to bad marriage

Studies have found that a bad marriage can give you gum disease and stomach and intestinal ulcers. Marital arguments can cause negative changes in your endocrinal and immune system. Stressful conversations with your spouse can boost the levels of stress hormones, cortisol and epinephrine, and keep them elevated for more than 22 hours after the argument.

Bad marriage equals bad heart

Psychologists Wendy Troxel and Karen Matthews of the University of Pittsburgh have found that bad marriage can make a woman more prone to dying from cardiovascular disease. The unhappily married women they studied had higher blood pressure and cholesterol than women who had happy marriages. The conclusion of the researchers was that a good marriage protects a woman from strokes and heart attacks.

Troxel told the American Psychosomatic Society, "Women might think that they're shrugging off a miserable relationship, but their body feels it."

So, ladies, if you are in an emotionally abusive marriage, it may not be so smart to just grit your teeth and stoically endure your fate. It can eventually cost you your life.

Women more affected than men

Ohio State psychologist Janice Kiecolt-Glaser told USA Today that verbal conflicts in marriage affect women more than men and also lead them to become more ill than their partners. She said that women are much more physically responsive than men to interactions in their marriage.

Women, she explained, remember the arguments in detail. True enough, a 1998 study revealed that discontented married women experienced increases in blood pressure readings just from merely thinking about the fights they had with their husbands.

Happy marriage good for diabetics

A 2002 study published in Diabetes Care determined that happily married diabetics manage their condition more successfully than their unhappily married counterparts. The research authors wrote, "This study provides prospective evidence that marital quality predicts diabetes-related quality of life. The marital relationship can be a major support or a significant source of stress."

Partner's key role in recovery

Psychologist John Gottman of the University of Washington has found that a bad marriage increases your chances of getting sick by 35 percent. Meanwhile, several studies have documented that if you do get sick, a problematic marriage will make your illness more severe.

On the other hand, if you have a supportive partner, you will actually recover faster. Psychiatrist James Coyne notes, "A good marriage can give a person a reason to stay alive. Even when your own determination to get better wavers, the commitment to your partner puts you back on track."

Good marriage like a life preserver

Linda Waite, sociologist and author of "The Case for Marriage," says, "Marriage is sort of like a life preserver or a seat belt. We can put it exactly in the same category as eating a good diet, getting exercise and not smoking."

Gottman, who is also the author of "The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work," believes a good marriage is even more important for your health than regular exercise. He told The Toronto Sun, "Working on your marriage every day will do more for your health and longevity than working out at a health club."

And for all you "mama's boys" out there: One of Gottman's basic rules for a good marriage is couples should develop a sense of "we-ness." He says trouble usually looms between a man's wife and his mother. He advises the man to side with his wife.

Next week: Why marriage can make you fat and what you can do about it

E-mail fitness@ibm.net. For past articles, exercises and suggestions for future columns, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.

"All for love!" What moms go through to prepare water for their babies

Welcome to the demanding, sometimes very trying world of motherhood! Yes, there is that wonderful, unique fulfillment having a baby brings, but there are also a million things mothers need to juggle every hour.

Let's take one simple, daily chore--preparing water for baby.

We all know that those days when we could simply get our fill of drinking water straight from the faucet are history. With the high risk of water contamination today, pediatricians recommend boiling water for babies (even bottled water!). According to William J. Klish, M.D., chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Nutrition, "The academy is again recommending boiling water for infant formulas." Klish explains that "Boiling should take care of all the bacteria and parasites that might be in the water."

And unless mothers are using ready-to-feed formula, this added chore is a must.

For most moms, sterilizing water and bottles have become part of their daily agenda. To say that the process can be time-consuming is an understatement. But, of course, however tedious the process may be, most moms would willingly labor over it, rather than risk their babies' health.

Before rushing off to work, or going about their day, most moms squeeze in an hour or so to boil enough water for the whole day. This is separate from the chore of washing, sterilizing, then air-drying the bottles and nipples carefully.

While the bottles and nipples are drying, they wash the teakettle or pot, get rid of any lime scale, or in the case of pots, any food residue. Some even wash the kettles or pots twice with an anti-bacterial dishwashing soap. This may sound obsessive, but mothers are just making sure.

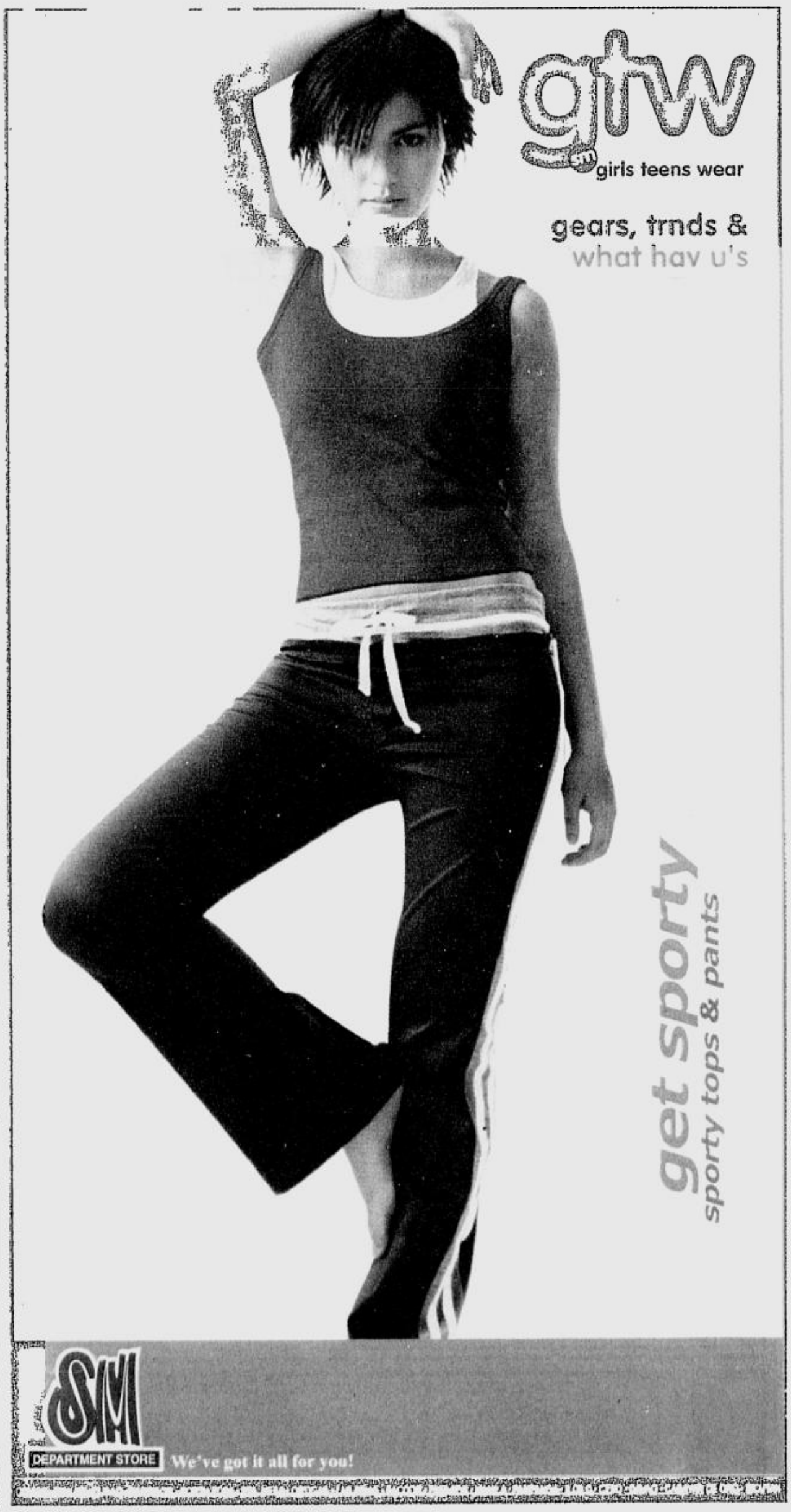
Then, they put the kettle on high heat for at least 30 seconds. After that, they pour the water in, bring it to a rolling boil for exactly a minute and turn the heat off. Counting starts the second the water comes to a boil.

Now, to prevent the water from being contaminated, they store the boiled water in sterilized containers. They seal them with airtight covers. And keep them in the refrigerator. To save precious time and avoid the slightest possibility of contamination, some mothers immediately pour the boiling water directly into the sterilized feeding bottles.

Did we mention that before moms even start the whole process, they go through the painstaking ritual of washing their hands properly, like surgeons?

All of these steps -- just to prepare water for baby. Far from easy, but if there's any motto moms go by, it's "Better safe than sorry!".

ADVT.



Solid shampoos to wash your blues away

Lush introduces 15 new bath essentials to shower-crazy Philippines, its biggest market for soaps

By Cheche V. Moral

GOOD news to shower-loving but penny-wise Filipinos. Lush boosts its hair-care line by introducing an exciting array of 15 new products, which the British company presented to the media recently at a salon luau party.

The Philippines is Lush's biggest market for soaps, said Lush international trainer Leonie Davies, "and, we learned, that's because you like to shower two to three times a day."

Everyone cheered at the compliment: Filipinos may be a lot of things, but certainly we can't be accused of being unclean (at least physically).

Two to three showers daily, however, is a lot of soap, shampoo and conditioner and, consequently, a lot of cash down the drain. And we're not even talking of the damage wrought to our hair by frequent shampooing, much less the environment.

Many may not be aware that what we use for bathing is called hard water. Hard water is formed when minerals like magnesium and calcium seep through our water sources. These minerals make it harder for lather to form, thus requiring greater amounts of products to be used.

Because of hard water, says Davies, manufacturers are compelled to increase the amount of detergent (the lathering agent also used in toothpaste) in their products, the resulting waste of which is detrimental to nature. (In other countries like the United States, artificial water softening is actually big business.)

To put an end to this dilemma, Lush has formulated shampoos that are specifically for hard water areas. One is simply called Hard; the bubblegum pink solid shampoo is made with a natural water softener that makes lathering easy. You don't need to shampoo twice to wash away all the city's filth off your hair. Ergo, potential hair damage is reduced.

Lush's other new shampoos are formulated for either or both soft and hard water areas.

Economical

Added to the brand's collection of solid round disks of shampoos is the crimson-colored New, which has peppermint that stimulates hair growth, and a blend of bay, clove and cinnamon oils that are said to cure dandruff.

Another is a speckled green disk, or Karma Komba, which is the shampoo form of Lush's most popular scent called Karma.

Each solid shampoo costs P275, or roughly as much as three 200-ml bottles of regular liquid shampoos. The price may seem steep considering that each disk weighs only 100 g, but don't be fooled, says Davies: One disk could actually last up to 100 showers—definitely more washes than three bottles of liquid shampoo.

Lush's solid shampoos were patented over 20 years ago. Going solid, the cosmetics company claims, has innumerable benefits, one of which is that it uses minimal packaging. Chopped from huge blocks, shampoo wedges are simply wrapped in paper.

"Because we use only fresh, organic fruits in our products," says Davies, "we want them to reach you fresh, with minimal preservatives. That's why our sell-by dates are approximately [only] a year after they were made. Other brands last up to five years because they use more preservatives."

Solid also allows for higher volumes of essential oils and fragrance. If you've ever been in the vicinity of a Lush store, chances are you've been lured into the store because of the heady scents.

"The fragrance of our products are not really overpowering," says Davies. They smell intense only because they are dumped together in large quantities in Lush stores. This fact should mollify those sensitive or allergic to strong scents.

Lasting fragrance

Still, for many a Lush devotee, the fragrance, more than the handmade products' interesting names, shapes, forms and colors, is what keeps them coming back for more.

Local Lush stores have been selling an astonishing 20,000 grams of wonderfully smelling soaps per store each week. As the brand introduces its line of solid and liquid conditioners, Lush's following is only expected to increase.

Jungle, the olive-colored solid conditioner, is touted as "the ultimate detangler," able to tame even the wildest of wavy hairs. Those who tried it at the launch swore by it, not just for giving their mane the lightest of feelings but more for its gloriously intoxicating scent.

Ditto for the bottled American Cream conditioner, whose spicy vanilla scent others said can last for three days. Well, that's if you could stand three days without washing your hair.

Patents are pending for Lush's solid conditioners and its two-in-one shampoo and conditioner called Hybrid. The conditioners are rich in extra virgin oils and butters that are meant to strengthen, protect and promote healthy scalp.

The butters have rich emollients for more bounce and body, but Lush claims excess oils are easily washed off.

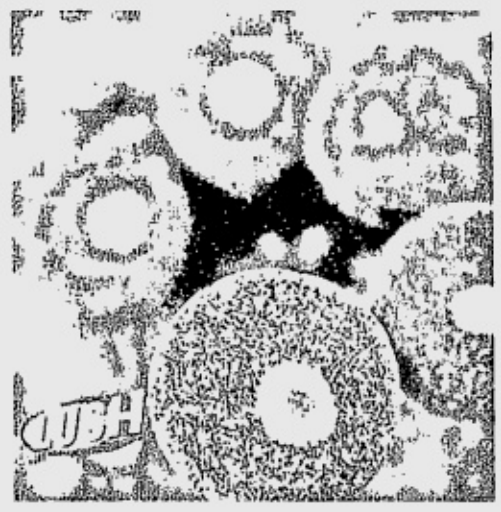
Loyal liquid shampoo users have the fruit juice-enriched Rehab that is said to repair damaged hair. The Barney-colored Daddyo is for gray hair; it's not intended to dye silver locks, but is formulated to give volume and shine.

"We are big on customer care," says Davies. "When you come to the store, our sales staff will gladly walk you through our hair care line so you'll know what's best suited for your hair type."

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and has branches at Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Power Plant Mall and Shangri-La Plaza Mall

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph









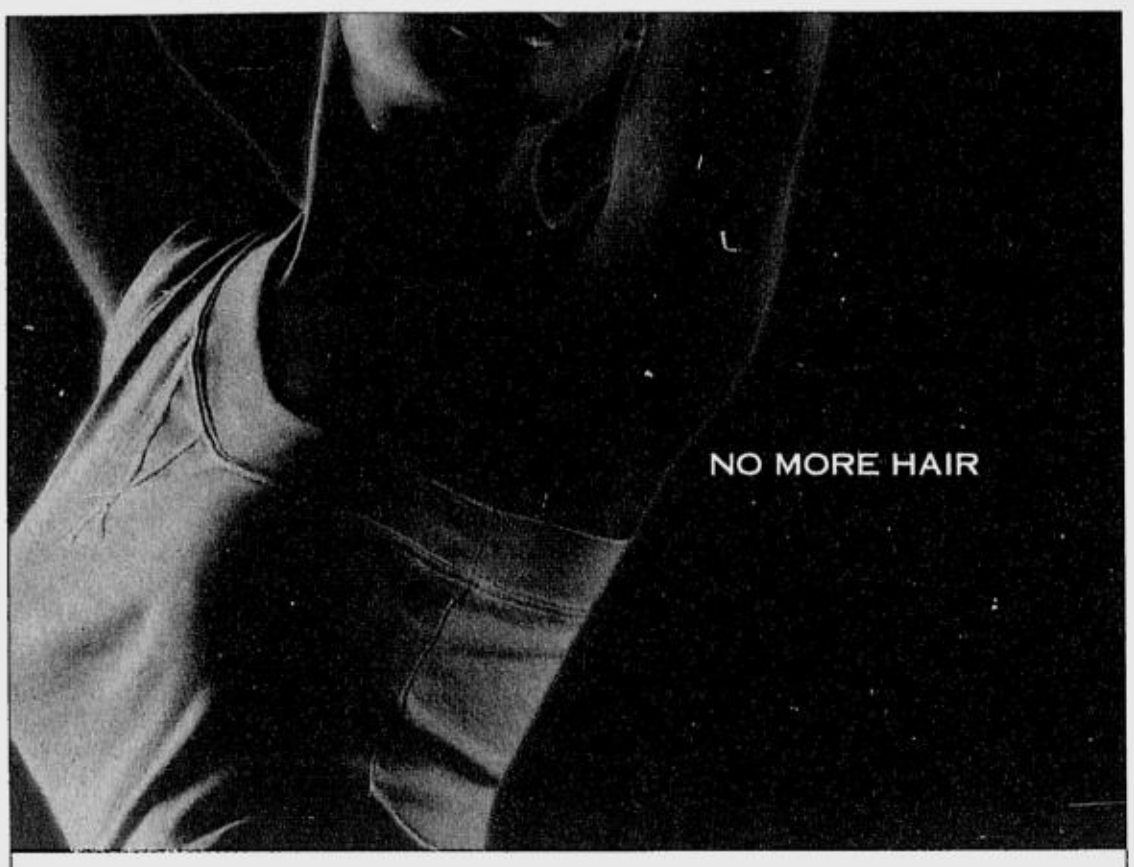
FOOD—FOR THE HAIR. (From top) Hard, Karma Komba and New solid shampoos, and Fuel solid conditioner. Below is American Cream conditioner.







STORES Specialists Inc.'s Anton Huang with (from left) TV personality Claudine Trillo-Webb, Lush international trainor Leonie Davies and model Angel Jacob



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SMOOTHER
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OPENING HOURS. MON-FRI: 8:00AM-7:00PM SAT: 8:00AM-5:00PM



Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I recently got hospitalized and MEDICard covered for all my bills and doctors' fees. I requested for a medical certificate from the hospital's medical records department pertaining to my confinement to present to my employer. I was charged for the certificate. Is this not covered under my MEDICard program?

The issuance of medical certificates or any certificate relating to the health status of a member is outside our coverage and benefits. Medical certificates are deemed not to be a necessary component in the management of the health of our members.

Meet your MEDICard Team



For more than four years now, pediatrician **Dr. Bettina Cercenia** has been in service to the healthcare needs of young MEDICard members. Dr. Bonnie, as her patients have become acquainted to call her, is based at St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC). She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and took her residency training for her specialization at Quezon City General Hospital. Dr. Cercenia also subspecializes in Pediatric Nephrology. Members may visit her clinic for consultation at SLMC's Medical Arts Bldg., Room 231, every Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 noon.



At Chinese General Hospital, members may seek the services of accredited specialist **Dr. Reynaldo U. Sebastian**. Dr. Sebastian is a 1977 graduate of Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas. He specializes in the field of Internal Medicine. Dr. Sebastian, now with more than 25 years of clinical practice, holds clinic at Room N-3 of the Chinese General Hospital located at Blumentritt St., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Clinic schedule is from Mondays to Saturdays, 8:30 AM to 5:30 in the afternoon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO 9001: 2000 certified

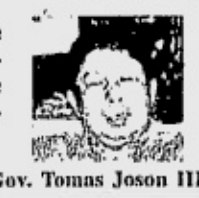


TO ALL MEDICard ACCREDITED DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

Reminder from **ATTY. DAVID J. ALARCON**, Revenue District Officer of Revenue District No. 34 (Paco, Pandacan, Sta. Ana, San Andres areas): Per BIR regulations, you are required to register and pay the corresponding annual registration fee of P 500.00 for every separate or distinct establishment or place of business in every Revenue District Office having jurisdiction over your clinic/office.

"With the fundamentals we now have in place and an improved political climate in the province, we will be the investment haven in the region."

- Q&A on p. 2 & 3 Gov. Tomas Joson III

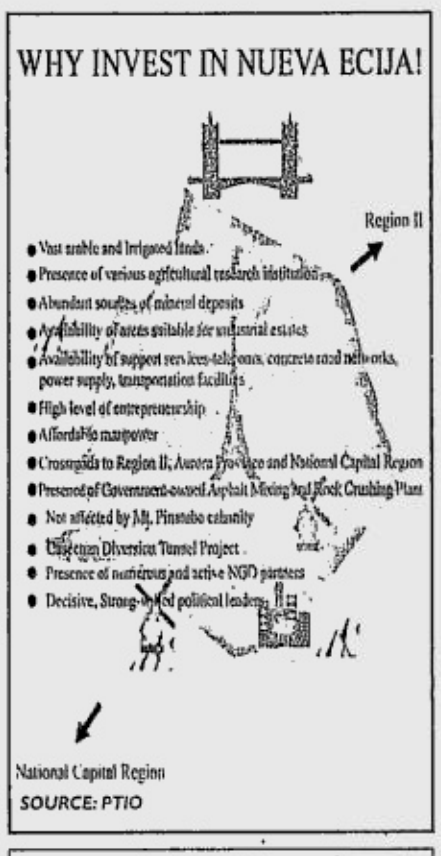


SPECIAL REPORT

Ika-107 Anibersaryo ng Araw ng Nueva Ecija

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Agri R&D: Engine for higher productivity, p.2
- Science City of Muñoz, p.4
- NE Seeds Center, p.4



Gov. Joson sees rise in agro-industrial investments

N. Ecija land of golden opportunities





Nueva Ecija is gearing up to become an agro-industrial province with golden opportunities for future investors and prospective partners who will develop its vast potentials.

Long regarded as the "Rice Granary of the Philippines" and the "Food Bowl of Central Luzon," Nueva Ecija is now set to become the next agro-industrial center of the country, even as it leads sustainable and balanced growth in the region.

"Now we are ready to share the benefits of our land. We are inviting investors to be a part of our growing community and be progressive," Gov. Tomas N. Joson III said.

"The strength of our province lies in its vast tracts of fertile land and great number of untapped labor force. These potentials are being enhanced by the existing agricultural research and development institutions in the province," he added.

According to Gov. Joson, "the province has all the factors investors require for their operations, and our Provincial Investment Incentives Code provides substantial benefits on top of the national investment incentives law."

Nueva Ecija boasts today of infrastructure, some export industries, a large skilled and highly-educated labor force, communications facilities, educational, health and social institutions that could readily support any new or expansion industry.

The Palayan City Agro-Industrial Center in Barangay Atate in Palayan City, the first for the province, will in time take its place of pride among the country's investment destinations. The 148-hectare industrial park extends Philippine Export Zone Authority benefits to investors, including tax, tarrifs and investment incentives. The entire industrial park will be an economic zone devoted to priority investments in such areas as information technology, manufacturing, telecommunications, power generation, forestry, agro-processing and post-harvest facilities.

More than the industrial park, Nueva Ecija offers 14,585 hectares of built up areas that could also be sites for new industries. The province has another 30,726 hectares of residential and commercial land which could provide sites and facilities for business operations as well as provide accommodation for personnel of investing companies.

The province has a population of 1.66 million, of which 1.06 million are in the labor force. Nueva Ecija has an untapped pool of over 391,000 skilled and highly-educated young people ready for immediate employment or retraining for specific industrial work.

"We have an abundance of skilled labor which is non-political," the governor assures as he cites the province's record of industrial peace.

The province has two specialized banks, 48 commercial banks, mostly branches or affiliates of nationally-operated banking institutions, 57 rural banks and 47 other lending institutions. These financial facilities are more than adequate to meet the financial requirements of any investor or entreprenuer, including the growing demand for quick electronic banking.

Turn to page D3

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN NUEVA ECIJA

AGRI-BASED

• RICE PROCESSING
- ▷ Rice Wine
- ▷ Cake (Rice Cakes)
- ▷ Rice Cracker
- ▷ Bread
- ▷ Vinegar
- ▷ Cream Puff

• AGROFORESTRY

Woods and other Forest Production Processing
- ▷ Paper Manufacturing
- ▷ Construction Materials

• CUTFLOWER
• MUSHROOM CULTURE AND PROCESSING
• LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION
- ▷ Cattle breeding/Fattening
- ▷ Dairy production
- ▷ Swine Breeding/Fattening
- ▷ Broiler Production
- ▷ Egg production

• INLAND FISHERIES
• AGRO-PROCESSING
- ▷ Onions (Dehydration)
- ▷ Cucumber (Pickling/Relishing)
- ▷ Citrus (Fruit Juices)
- ▷ Mango (Dried, Juice)
- ▷ Tomato (Paste, Juice)
- ▷ Garlic

• SERICULTURE
• SEED PRODUCTION
- ▷ Red Creole
- ▷ Yellow Granex

• VAST ARABLE LAND

Suitable for:
Coffee and Cacao Production

INDUSTRY RELATED

Metallic Resources:
- ▷ Manganese
- ▷ Copper
- ▷ Gold

Non-Metalic Resources:
- ▷ Feldspar
- ▷ Quartz
- ▷ Marble
- ▷ Red & White Clay
- ▷ Silica
- ▷ Aggregates

• ORGANIC FERTILIZER PRODUCTION
• SACK MANUFACTURING
• BRAN OIL PROCESSING
• EXPORT INDUSTRY FOR HANDICRAFTS
- ▷ Woodcrafts
- ▷ Ceramics
- ▷ Furniture
- ▷ Novelty items
- ▷ Metalcraft



For further details contact:
Provincial Trade and Investments Office
Provincial Capitol Compound
Brgy. Singalat, Palayan City-3111
Nueva Ecija, Philippines
Tel.No.: (044)958-1786 to 87
www.nuevaecija.gov.ph

SOURCE: PTIO



GMA keynotes 107th Araw ng Nueva Ecija rites

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will be the guest of honor at today's celebration of the 107th anniversary of Araw Ng Nueva Ecija.

This is the annual commemoration of the Novo Ecijano's march on the Spanish garrison at San Isidro on September 2, 1896.

A combined force of 3,000 Filipino patriots under the command of Capt. Mariano Llanera and Capt. Pantaleon Valmonte laid a three-day siege on what was then the capital of Nueva Ecija, earning for the province a ray in the national flag. That historic uprising which highlighted the patriotism and gallantry of the Novo Ecijanos, came barely a week after the Cry of Balintawak and two days after a similar uprising in Cavite.

Theme of this year's celebration is "Samasamang Novo Ecijano Tungo sa Matatag na Republika," a timely message to support President Arroyo's call for the building of the strong republic.

The festivities start with the provincewide pealing of church bells at 7 a.m., followed by a mass at the Sta. Cecilia Parish Church in Palayan City.

The formal program is at 9 a.m. opening with the presentation of Barangay Tanod graduates and the award of certificates by the President, assisted by Local Government Secretary Jose Lina, Gov. Tomas N. Joson III and PC/Supt. Vidal Erfe Querol.

President Arroyo will deliver her keynote address after Gov. Joson's message.

Palayan City Mayor Ma. Lorelei C. Fajardo will give the welcome remarks, while Quirino V. dela Cruz will be the master of ceremonies.

As part of the celebration, the Binibining Nueva Ecija was proclaimed and crowned last night at the Araullo Gym in Cabanatuan City.

Trade missions firm up foreign investments, cement old ties

Last August 16, Nueva Ecija Governor Tomas N. Joson III welcomed to the province a Chinese delegation headed by Mr. Zhong Jiancheng, Director-General of the Anhui Provincial Foreign Affairs Office. During the four-day visit, the two leaders discussed bilateral agreements between the sister provinces of Nueva Ecija and Anhui. Gov. Joson also showed the delegates around the Muñoz Science City, one of the major agro-research facilities of the province. The focus of the tour was PhilSCAT, the RP – Sino Center for Agricultural Technology, and the first

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Gawad Parangal for Outstanding Novo Ecijanos set tonight

"Nueva Ecija's strength lies mostly in its citizens who have chosen to make a difference and make our province proud rather than idly wait for things to come their way...their ingenuity, dedication and hard work are the real engines in the march to greater progress of the province and their efforts must be recognized so they will serve as shining examples for the rest of the citizens to emulate." Governor Tomas Joson III heaped this accolade on this year's Gawad Parangal honorees as he acknowledged their great contribution to the progress of the province.

In formal ceremonies tonight, the *Gawad Parangal, Tanging Alay sa Tanging Anak ng Nueva Ecija* award will be conferred on 12 select individuals who have made a name for themselves, contributed to community development and gave the province a reason to be proud.

This year's honorees include Mayor Sonia R. Lorenzo (for public service) for her unwavering commitment to uplift the plight of her town with her "San Isidro Anti-Poverty Program, Pabahay sa Magsasaka, Ecological Waste Management, San Isidro Against Illegal Drugs which also merited a citation from the President of the Philippines as the "best Performing Local Government Unit Against Illegal Drugs."

Noted educator Dr. Gertrudes F. Aquino who has been teaching for the past 40 years is honored for her dedication in forming and molding the minds of the youth through learning. In the field of medicine, Dr. Rolando B. Veneracion is acknowledged for his invaluable service to help promote the health and welfare, as well as, spirituality of his townmates.

Rev. Sr. Inocencia Gonzales, O.P. who founded the "Asian Flame Friendly Society," for giving quality education to the less fortunate and Dr. Honorato L. Angeles, an astute innovator and inventor, who spearheaded the creation of 16 centers of "Farmers Information and Technology Services or FITS" will be recognized for community service and science and technology, respectively.

"Bangan ng Bayan ay Tunay na Utang sa mga Magsasaka" exemplified by farmer Reynaldo G. Villar, who succeeded and prospered in the field of Agriculture and Beverly G. Mendoza who became a Woman International Master (WIM) in chess at the age of 18 at Istanbul Turkey, will likewise be honored.



Major General Vicente Francisco C. Y. Yarza, Palanca Awardee for literature Pedro Salazar, and furniture maker Virginia Esteban, will be cited for their outstanding performance in the military service, journalism, and trade and industry, respectively.

For government service, Ida May Bagasao will be cited for her devoted and dependable service in her role as co-administrator of the United High Commmisioner for Refugees while Leonila V. Chavez will be recognized for her contribution to Cooperativism as she was also awarded the Gawad Parangal sa Pagbabangko ng Kooperatiba Rural. DUV

NE's tilapia, dairy and mango:bigger, fresher, better

The continuing improvement of tilapia and mango strains and development of dairy products is now making waves for the province of Nueva Ecija.

Improvements in size, taste, freshness and variety are some of what these agri-products have to offer with the application of modern technology, an important component of the provincial government's efforts to provide additional livelihood and income opportunities for the province and food security for the country.

Tilapia. Introduced in the country during the 1950's when Filipino scientists brought home this species they obtained from Thailand, tilapia is also called "St. Peter's fish" (as it was believed to be the same kind of fish caught by St. Peter before he was called by Jesus Christ as an apostle). Tilapia has the ability to multiply so fast that it was once considered a pest as it overwhelmed any habitat

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Agri R&D: Engine for higher productivity

Think "Rice Granary of the Philippines" and "Food Bowl of Central Luzon" and the image that comes to mind is Nueva Ecija.

But Gov. Tomas N. Joson III looks forward to the day when Nueva Ecija becomes not just the "Food Granary of the Nation" but the primary engine of the country's agricultural exports.

He believes that his vision for agriculture can become a reality with the application of modern agricultural technology, coupled with the Novo Ecijano's native industry.

Already, modern agricultural technology has raised the yield of Nueva Ecija's rice fields to an average of 4.58 metric tons (MT) per hectare. This translates to 1.4 million MT or over 28.28 million cavans of rice, using 2002 as reference year. Nueva Ecija farmers aim to beat this record this year and every year.

The high production is attributed by Gov. Joson to rice research and applied agriculture technology which resulted in 70,085 cavans of registered high quality seeds and 395,059 cavans of certified seeds which guaranteed a higher yield per hectare over regular rice seeds.

Modern agriculture technology, particularly in genetic research, has also been applied to the livestock industry in the province. As a result, Nueva Ecija produced 51,448 heads of carabao, 57,161 heads of cattle, 226,764 heads of swine, 62,795 goats and over 4.27 million chickens in 2001. The same technology has resulted in the rise of carabao milk production and processing industry in the province.

The local government, being the National Impact Zone for Dairy Buffalo Development, provided farmer groups and cooperatives with 25 heads of Indian and Bulgarian murrah buffalos known for their massive build and superior milk production. This effort is expected to provide a dramatic rise in Nueva Ecija's meat and dairy production and processing industry in just a decade.

With a total area of 4,286 hectares for inland fisheries and 12,611 hectares for freshwater, Nueva Ecija is producing four million tons per hectare per year of tilapia, carp and catfish (hito). In addition, recent technology in aquaculture research allowed Nueva Ecija farmers to grow fresh water prawns right in their rice paddies. A gram of female prawn can produce as much as 1,000 larvae which could earn farmers an additional P2.50 per larvae.

Nueva Ecija is slowly being recognized as a leading producer of tilapia, hogs, cows, carabaos, chicken, ducks, quails and eggs.

Gov. Joson notes, however, that Nueva Ecija is also fast becoming a virtual vegetable capital of Luzon. Igorots and other indigenous people of the Cordilleras have been migrating to Nueva Ecija's northern town of Carranglan. There the migrants have planted Baguio vegetables which, ironically, are eventually brought to Benguet's vegetable markets and sold as Baguio produce.

But onion produced primarily in Bongabon, Laur, Rizal, Gabaldon and San Jose has broken the export market as these are already being sold in Japan even as it supplies the demand in Central Luzon and Metro Manila. Aliaga, Sto. Domingo, Rizal, San Leonardo, Talavera and Cabanatuan are top producers of tomatoes, squash and eggplant. Garlic, an important spice, is grown in San Jose and Munoz on a total production field of 334.40 hectares, with an average yield of 12 MT per hectare.

Gov. Joson intends to introduce coffee and cassava as cash crops in Nueva Ecija. The province has just signed a contract with Nestle Philippines for the planting of arabica coffee in 3,000 hectares of land in Pantabangan, Carranglan and Laur.

Being the largest province in Central Luzon, Nueva Ecija with its 550,718 hectares of rich, arable land of which 63 per cent or 330,985 hectares are devoted to agriculture, certainly has a bright future in the application of modern agricultural technology. This will certainly benefit the 120,000 farmers that continue to strengthen the image of the province as a major source of food for the country.



Greenhouse technology has allowed enterprising farmers to reap lucrative profits in the production of high value crops with minimum resources.







Q&A VISIONS OF A MOVER

Go st

Gov. Tomas Noriel Joson III is now serving Ecija.

The eldest son of the late Gov.Eduardo J affectionately called ***Tatang*** *by his provinc into politics on his Father's death in 1989.*

His initiation into public service actu ***Tatang*** *for whom he was the Private Sec 1976, when he won a seat in the Sangguni he was voted vice governor and governor,*

Although a multi-awarded local executi in college. Or so he thought.

"My plan was to try my luck in Americ own", he said.

Gov. Joson obtained his AB-Economics d masteral units, also in Economics, at the

What follows are insights from the colleg and the reluctant politician who, having outpouring of public sympathy and supp three years, four months and five days.

Q.What is your vision for Nueva Ecija?

A.To make our province an investment haven. With the fundamentals we now have in place — roads and infrastructure, telecommunications, abundant and non-political labor; reliable power source, financial services, a vibrant market, we are even blessed with our strategic location as a vital leg to the "W" Growth Corridor — and coupled with an improved political climate in the province, we will be the investment haven in the region.

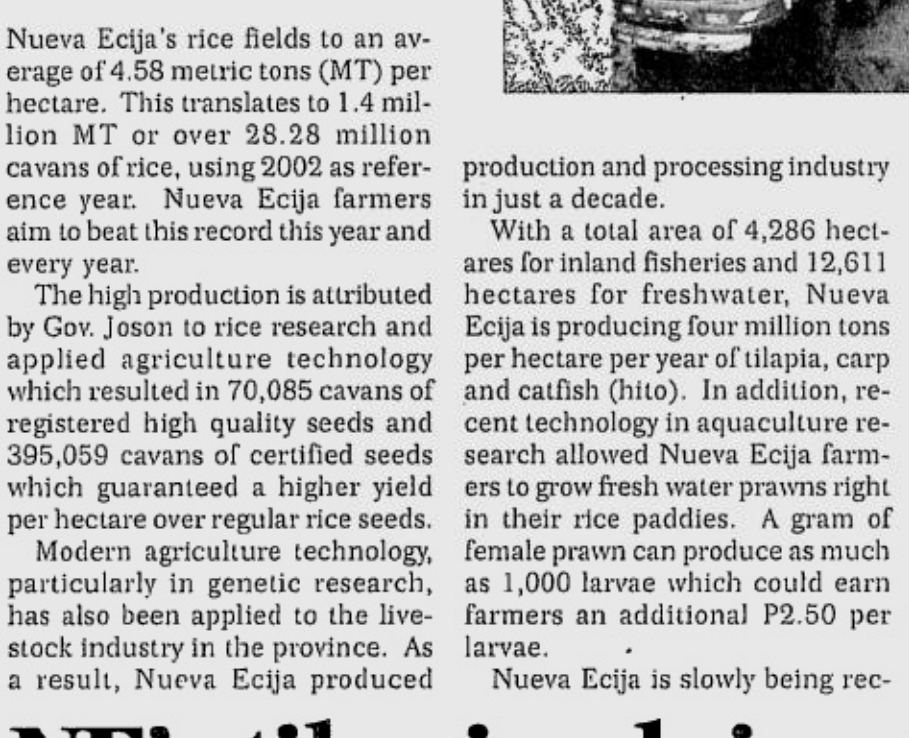
Q.What kind of investments do you expect to attract to NE?

A.I must warn that we will be choosy with our investors. The livelihood of Novo Ecijanos depend on our farms and waters. Industries will be welcome but they should be non-pollutants; there will be no chemical factories nor plastics manufacturers. We will be looking for investments that would complement our core industries in agriculture. For instance, there is one group looking into the assembly of post-harvest facilities.

Q.Why should people invest in NE?

A.For one, there is stability in policies and politics. Political stability and predictability of policies should build confidence in the province, as demonstrated by the high level of interest the inbound and outbound trade and

NE's tilapia, dairy and mango ... From page 1



ponds, lakes, rivers and streams.

Scientists from Central Luzon State University (CLSU) then studied ways of controlling the fast-paced tilapia population and came up with efficient techniques like sex reversal, manual sexing (also called YY male tilapia technology), cage culture, rice-fish culture and hatchery and pond culture.

After successfully controlling the tilapia population, CLSU established a valuable partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Center or BFAR-NFFTC (located inside the CLSU campus). This partnership led to the implementation of the Genetic Improvement of Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) project that developed a synthetic tilapia developed from African and Asian strains.

Aside from this successful genetic improvement, BFAR-NFFTC has again developed and released a superior breed of tilapia known as the "Genetically Enhanced Tilapia 2002 EXCEL Tilapia" or GET 2002 EXCEL Tilapia. The new strain of tilapia is 38 percent better than those of the GIFT project in terms of taste, yield and growth. Thus, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo officially launched the center as the national station for the propagation of the brood stock of GET 2002 EXCEL Tilapia.

BFAR-NFFTC, which seeks to increase the supply of high quality tilapia fingerlings and breeders in the country as well as provide fish farmers with a profitable and efficient source of income, is capable of producing 65 million tilapia fingerlings and three million brood stocks per year.

Showing support for the newly improved tilapia breed, Gov. Tomas Joson III has established two tilapia hatcheries: one in CLSU and another in Cabanatuan City. He also led the dispersal of 1.5 million fingerlings a year to indigenous tilapia growers.

The improved tilapia breed is also seen to penetrate foreign markets through processed tilapia meat (fish fillet) and canned goods.

Carabaos: milk and dairy products. Carabaos have been a major contributor to the total agricultural economy of the country. The contributions of this famous "beast of burden" are estimated at almost P 4.7 billion for meat, P 95 million for its hide, P 300 million for milk and P 8.16 billion for the draft power it provides in ensuring the yields of major crops.

However, the last figures may undergo drastic changes as carabaos are increasingly being replaced with mechanical hand tractors as source of farm power in a number of irrigated rice-producing areas. And with these developments, efforts to develop carabaos in the Philippines as a significant source of milk and meat become more important than ever before.

It was under this immediate need that the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) was created in 1998. PCC seeks to promote carabao development by carrying out the production of the genetically superior buffalo for eventual distribution to breeding centers, farmers' associations and cooperatives to carry out genetic improvement; conduct trainings regarding carabao genetic improvement; provide assistance for the development of carabao-based enterprise; and aid in the development of technologies and assistance in policy assessment and formulation leading to a more productive carabao industry.

And as a concrete step towards the fulfillment of its mandate, PCC and the provincial government of Nueva Ecija introduced the breeding of Murrah buffalos in the country.

Murrah buffalos are known for their superior built and milk-producing ability. This breed of buffalos can weigh as much as 700 kilograms and produce six to eight liters of milk a day as compared to the native carabao that can only weigh up to 400 kg and produce one to two liters of milk a day.

The imported breeding stock of Murrah buffalos are now being distributed to farmer cooperatives to be crossbred with native ones while some remain at the research facility and dairy farm of PCC where they undergo modern methods of reproduction like artificial insemination and the world's first successful carabao embryo transfer.

The distribution of Murrah buffalos to Novo Ecijano farmers has resulted in an increased crossbred population that eventually gave additional opportunities for locals as they utilize the milk for the production of locally-marketed dairy products such as "pastillas de leche" and the famous white cheese or "kesong puti". New products like *sorbetes*, lacto-juice, soaps, facial creams and even mozzarella cheese (a major ingredient for making pizza) are now being developed.

To further assure the success of this sweet industry, PCC and the Bureau of Post Harvest Research Institute Extension (BPHRIE) signed a memorandum of agreement last May to jointly undertake a cold chain system project designed to minimize the spoilage of fresh milk, processed milk and milk by-products. The system will provide milk storage facilities to all Novo Ecijano dairy farmers.

Mangoes. One of the most popular tropical fruits and considered as one of the finest fruits in the world, mango is the third most important fruit crop in the country next to banana and pineapple. Its high commercial value becomes more evident as farmers continue to extensively plant and grow it in the different regions of the country.

Of the total 131,730 hectares dedicated for the production of mangoes nationwide, Nueva Ecija accounts for almost 10 percent of this total area running second to Pangasinan with 11 percent.

And having been dubbed as the "Land of Golden Opportunities", Nueva Ecija continues to be recognized for its efforts to increase the production of its "golden" fruit as well as being a potential processing center for the commercial expansion of mango by-products.

In 2001, Nueva Ecija's mango production reached 31,056.21 metric tons and a yield of nearly 3 metric tons per hectare a yield double that of 1990 with 1.44 metric tons.

And to further increase Nueva Ecija's remarkable production, Gov. Joson has pushed for the planting of one million mango trees all over the province.

Aside from the 800,000 mango trees planted all over the province, about 70,000 seedlings have been distributed by the provincial government to various barangays this year.

The governor has asked various Novo Ecijano cooperatives and 850 barangay councils to set up nurseries for the distributed mango seedlings and support the mango propa-

ov. Joson speaks up on political ability, economic vision

his second full-term as Governor of Nueva

son, who served for over 30 years and was mates, the incumbent governor was thrust

lly started in 1972, under the tutelage of tary. His first elective position came in ng Panlalawigan. Successively thereafter, he latter three times over.
e. public office was not in the stars for him

after college. I picked the US to be on my

gree at the State University, later earning niversity of Sto. Tomas.
kid who initially scoffed at 'public service', erved his people well, was sustained by the rt at the time of his detention that lasted

investment missions have generated.

For another, much of the infrastructure to facilitate commerce and link Novo Ecijanos with the rest of the growth centers is already in place. Today, this is a 5,384–kilometer road network with 104 concrete bridges. But the 30-km. by-pass road to connect the towns of San Leonardo, Sta. Rosa, Talavera and Munoz to San Jose City, the 12-km. Palayan-Dingalan Bay Road to link this coastal town of Aurora with the capital, and the proposed Sta. Rosa-Fort Magsaysay Road, will be strategic and vital additions to this network.

Needless to say, our non-politicized labor is a definite plus, and the R&D breakthroughs in the Science City of Munoz are open investment windows.

Q.Can you cite some current investments or investments in the pipeline?

A.We have about three or four inbound missions. Japanese investors are looking to build a plant for biodegradable products to be made out of rice hulls. A German company is proposing to recycle used tires into granules for industrial applications in their home country. The process will not involve any burnings or harmful emissions. Delegates from Anhui, China, with whom we have established the RP-Sino Center for Agricultural Technology, will come here to display their products. The Prime Minister of Kashmir is also expected to visit.

Q.What led you to public service or the politics of public service?

A.We were not really born to be politicians, despite the long tenure of our father from being Mayor of Quezon to Provincial Governor. In fact, my ambition after graduating from college was to go to America and work; to be independent and to grow up. In time, however, *Tatang's* concept and values of service to our fellows rubbed off on us.

Q.What would you consider your most significant achievement?

A.That we have been able to change public perception... *Naiba na ang tingin ngayon sa Nueva Ecija. Di na magulo.* There were political squabbles in the past but these are behind us already. We hope to draw back to Nueva Ecija our provincemates now elsewhere in the country and abroad.

Q.What do you think are your challenges?

A.Now that we have passed the turning point on Nueva Ecija's image, we should be able to seize the opportunities in opening up our markets to new partners and investors and aggressively pushing our own products in other markets. I was already looking at opening up the market as early as the 90's, and our recent breakthroughs in R&D have reinforced my confidence in our ability to do this with a sharp competitive edge.

Q.What are your priorities?

A.We have prioritized Research and Development. That is why we have invested P60-Million in the food and vegetables seeds program.

Education and training remains high in our priorities. We have the study-now-pay-later program. From 1998-2003 we provided tuition subsidy to as many as 30,000 poor but deserving students. The CLSU has created sub-centers where college students teach the younger ones, significantly expanding the reach of the formal classroom. We have ingrained not only the value of free education but the virtue of excellence in all that our students do. We have the biggest TESDA training center, and we have hired TESDA managers as regular employees. We even have tie-ups with manufacturers — paints, tiles, roofing, etc., — for hands-on training.

We also have livelihood, entrepreneurship, housing and employment programs implemented by various specialized units, with social services extended quite literally "from womb to tomb".

Q.Any concrete or specific programs you can mention?

A.For one, the creation of the Provincial Trade and Industry Office or PTIO has given us a handle on our livelihood programs and services.

Major programs under the PTIO's oversight are: *Tulong-pangkabuhayan Oportunidad sa Masigasig na Mamamayan Yaman ng Nueva Ecija*, an entrepreneurship and livelihood program; Job Opportunities for Skilled-workers of Nueva Ecija, the employment and placement program; *Tahanang Novo Ecijano sa* OFW, for housing. Three years ago, we forged a tie-up with the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, TLRC, for the conduct of livelihood courses. Some 3,400 individuals have benefited from this program. We also help our graduates get financing for their projects from tie-up institutions like TLRC. Merchants Bank and Quedancor.

Employment assistance is done by PTIO through the skills database, where the skilled and semi-skilled are screened and listed. By networking with prospective employers, PTIO facilitates their placement.

Our Human Resource Management Office, Provincial Employment Services Office or PESO, and the Manpower Training Center are all helping here.

We are in effect creating the steps in the ladder that will raise incomes, and improve the standard of living, the quality of life of the Novo Ecijanos.

Q.What about social and health services?

A.I suppose one good indication of this is our having won the coveted 1998 CROWN or Consistent Regional Outstanding Winner in Nutrition award for Central Luzon.

From an 18.33 percent malnutrition prevalence in 1992, we reduced this to 2.84 percent in 2002. Thus we got the Green Banner Award for three successive years. And the CROWN that went with it. We have regular milk feeding, food assistance, malnutrition education and immunization programs for the children.

Free surgical missions are conducted regularly. And our Medicare *Para sa Masa*, over the past three years, covered and assisted 7,114 indigent beneficiaries.

We have even opened a rehab center for drug dependents where over a hundred "patients" have already been accepted.

Q.What gives you fulfillment or satisfaction as Governor?

A.Personally, *yong araw-araw nakakatulong tayo sa ating mga kalalawigan.* Happy *'yong ating mga kababayan. Kung hindi ko naramdaman ang pagmamahal ng aking mga kalalawigan* in the 3 years, 4 months, and 5 days that I was detained, I would not have survived it. There was never a dull moment. And those gestures were their eloquent and touching way of thanking me for simply doing my job. I don't suppose there are many jobs that yield that kind of priceless dividend.

Q. Looking back to 107 years from the Siege of San Isidro and about 30 years ago when your father, Eduardo Joson, started his tenure as Governor, what would be your thoughts?

A.The heroes of Nueva Ecija need not worry. The courage, the valor and vision they held for Nueva Ecija in 1896 live on in the Novo Ecijanos today, who have partnered with us in promoting Nueva Ecija to agricultural pre-eminence in the region. As for *Tatang*, his dream of 35 years ago to establish Nueva Ecija as the strategic fulcrum between the two great seas that bound Luzon in the East and West is slowly beginning to take shape. The government, industrial, financial and trade center now emerging in Palayan City is the first small step in that direction.



Gov. Joson sees rise ...

From page 1

Most important for investors, leading telecommunications companies have already set up facilities in the region providing cellular phone connections, postal, telegraphic, courier and even cable services. Communications among investment partners both in the Philippines and overseas would be easily facilitated.

Nueva Ecija is both a crossroad and a gateway province. Its 5,384-kilometer road network links it with Pangasinan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Aurora province and Metro Manila.It is the gateway to Nueva Vizcaya and the northern provinces of Isabela and the Cagayan Valley. These well-paved roadways are further linked by 104 concrete bridges which allow for the easy transport of goods, services and people throughout Central Luzon.

Nueva Ecija is well known for having the largest irrigation system and power generating source in the Pantabangan Dam, which will soon be boosted by the Casecnan Multi-purpose Irrigation and Power Project. These assure investors a steady power supply, a virtual guarantee of uninterrupted operations unrivaled in other provinces.

Investors would be heartened to know that Nueva Ecija is the site of several academic, research and development institutions. The province is home to the Philippine Rice Research Institute (Philrice), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), the National Freshwater Fisheries and Technology Center, the Fruits and Vegetables Seed Center, and the Central Luzon State University.

True to its sobriquet as food source and granary, the province continues to produce the staple rice, plus garlic, onions, mangoes and fresh water fish.

Nueva Ecija is an urbanized province with five cities. The ambiance of the countryside, however, has been maintained, a welcome atmosphere for investors who would enjoy all the facilities of a large city yet escape the hustle and bustle of a crowded commercial-industrial center.

Besides, the growing perception of political stability in the province has drawn interest from expat Novo Ecijanos. "We will win them back", Gov. Joson said, as he underscored the potential resources of overseas Filipinos.

Investors in food processing, agro-processing, export industries in woodcraft, ceramics, furniture, novelty items and metalcraft are already enjoying the investment opportunities offered by the province.

"We will of course be mindful," Gov. Joson noted, "that the new industries are not a threat to our waters and our farms."

Nueva Ecija is in touch with the national goal: industrialization as a key to economic growth and to sharing the benefits of development with the greatest number of people.

"While Nueva Ecija continues to nurture its agricultural roots, it looks forward to sustainable agro-industrial expansion as the platform on which the future wealth of the province and the people will stand. Investments in industry which would mobilize the provincial labor force should benefit all Novo Ecijanos, like a rising tide that lifts all boats," Gov. Joson said.

Trade missions ...

From page 1

gation program of the provincial government.

"Instead of buying mango seedlings from other provinces, the propagation program will help Nueva Ecija to directly provide locals with the seedlings and even sell it to other areas," the governor said.

The export of the fruit and its by-products has been a very rewarding industry for many mango exporting countries as world demand for mango continues to increase with a yearly average growth rate of eight percent. Strong markets for the crop include the United States, China, Hong Kong, Netherlands, France, UK, Germany and Belgium.

Given the vast market, Nueva Ecija has taken a number of research and development initiatives to help mango farmers maximize their annual production. Mangoes reach their optimum ripeness in just a few days after harvest. Most of these rot as they make their way for export or before they are even sold at the local market. To prevent such wastage, Nueva Ecija has developed a program that will delay the early ripening of harvested mangoes through a process called oxidation. The process will increase the storage life of the fruit to ensure that it reaches the market right at the peak of its freshness.

The innovative strategies for consolidating footholds in non-traditional markets, the governor said, augur well for the province's agro-industrial expansion. JBC

grant project of China to the Philippines. The visit highlights Nueva Ecija's strategic foreign tie-ups geared towards agro-industrial development and forged with the help of outbound and inbound trade missions.

Through outbound missions, the province aims to establish joint venture agreements, sister-province tie-ups and other investment promotion activities by visiting other countries. As head of the Central Luzon Trade and Investment Council, Gov. Joson conducted three outbound missions this year to various Asian nations. In his visit to Bangkok, Thailand from January 29 to February 2, the governor previewed the Royal Chitralada Projects of King Bhumibol of Thailand for possible adoption of their techniques in Nueva Ecija's dairy production projects.

From May 12 to 16, Gov. Joson was in Tokyo, Japan to observe two Japanese companies that use rice hull and husk in manufacturing biodegradables. During his stay there, the governor also met with members of the Japan Association of Novo Ecijanos for other project tie-ups. Two months later, from July 25 to 28, Gov. Joson flew to Hong Kong and Macau for the induction of officers of the Nueva Ecija Association. He also discussed with them the Tahanang Novo Ecijano Para sa OFW (TNJ PO) project, which seeks to address the perennial problem of ensuring the proper allotment of remittances for house construction.

On the other hand, inbound missions occur when delegates from other countries are invited to Nueva Ecija to have a feel of the province's potentials for trade, investment and tourism. In response to Gov. Joson's first visit, a delegation flew in to Nueva Ecija last July 7 from Tokyo, Japan. The delegates scoped out possible business ventures in Nueva Ecija, particularly the construction of the plastics manufacturing plant for rice straw, rice hulls and other farm wastes. Another such inbound mission was the recent visit of delegates from Anhui, China this August.

By promoting the province's assets and establishing trade relations with other countries, Gov. Joson aims to attract potential investors into the province at the same time tending to the needs of Novo Ecijanos here and abroad. This two-way street facilitates the influx of technology and support for the province's many projects and opens new avenues for commerce and industry.

Nueva Ecija boasts of modern infrastructure such as impressive road networks and irrigation systems, as well as "hard-working, educated and mild-mannered people" who are easy to work with. With these, Gov. Joson pitches the province's readiness for investment opportunities in his travels abroad, often with positive and encouraging results. Indeed, under the able stewardship of its governor, Nueva Ecija is capable of forging the links and moving ahead into the 21st century. DUV

This report was conceptualized by Communications Linkages, Inc. to keep the public informed of the good things happening around us.

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Science City of Muñoz: expanding the frontiers in agri-development; seeking new partners

By Dr. Anselmo S. Roque



Gov. Joson inspects a newly-harvested muskmelon from the CLSU-Israeli Greenhouse

From a sitio of a barrio of an adjacent town, to a regular municipality. From a fourth class to a first class municipality and then into a city, a city which is singularly different from the others.

This was the impressive historical odyssey of Nueva Ecija's Science City of Muñoz, the first legislated component science city. Passed by Congress and signed into law in late 2000, the conversion of the town of Muñoz into a city was overwhelmingly ratified by the voters of the erstwhile town during a plebiscite on December 9, 2000.

As early as 1907, when the young town of Muñoz was still a forested area, American and Filipino leaders selected a 658-hectare area within the municipality which they established as the Central Luzon Agricultural School, which made a big name in scientific farming and agricultural education and development.

The school was raised into a college and eventually elevated into a university, the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) which in its early years conducted successful researches that expanded frontiers in agriculture. More breakthroughs were scored by CLSU, and like a magnet, attracted several agencies in agriculture, fisheries and related fields.



These agencies in the Science City of Muñoz which shine brightly are the Philippine Rice Research Institute, Philippine Carabao Center, Bureau of Post Harvest Research Institute Extension, National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Center, Regional Crop Protection Center, Nueva Ecija Provincial Science and Technology Center, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office, Agricultural Training Institute provincial office, district office of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems, Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (irrigation component), and Regional Science Teaching Center.

The latest to start their operations are the RP-Sino Center for Agricultural Technology and the Nueva Ecija Fruits and Vegetables Seed Center which are both located in the compound of CLSU. The former operates under the first technical cooperation project of the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Philippines and the latter under the provincial government of Nueva Ecija-CLSU tie-up agreement which was started with a major grant from the province (Separate story on this page).

Also operated by the CLSU are the Freshwater Aquaculture Center, Small Ruminants Center, Water Resources Management Center, Ramon Magsaysay Center for Agricultural Resources and Environmental Studies, Information Systems Institute, and the Environmental Management Institute in addition to its regular colleges that cater to a comprehensive type of education both on the graduate and undergraduate levels. CLSU is also the base agency of the Central Luzon Agricultural Resources and Development Consortium, the lead agency of the Luzon Science Consortium and the zonal research center of the Commission on Higher Education.

In 1993, thru the initiatives of then CLSU President Dr. Fortunato Battad and then town Mayor Efren Alvarez, the Department of Science and Technology declared Muñoz as a "science community", the fifth in the country. Subsequently, Alvarez and Dr. Rodolfo Undan, now president of CLSU, developed a master plan for the development of the town into an agricultural science city. Eventually, then Rep. Simeon Garcia of the second district of Nueva Ecija, with the full backing of Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III, sponsored the bill for the conversion of Muñoz into a science city.

Investment Haven. Call it a window of opportunities for those who seek them. Call it the opening of the doors for investors and investments. Munoz is one of the nine growth centers identified by the Nueva Ecija provincial government as ripe for investment.

"There's now a need for wider adoption of the many technologies developed in the Science City of Muñoz. On our part, we are ready to share these technologies and our scientists behind them are more than willing to lend support for the commercialization aspect of the technologies they developed. I am also sure that my colleagues in the other agencies in the city share this stand," said CLSU president Dr. Undan.

As it is today, the provincial government of Nueva Ecija, with the full support of the city, is in the crest of promoting the "White Revolution" particularly in the province. The "Whites" are rice, milk, and tilapia, a freshwater fish species known to have cotton-white meat. (See story on p. 1)

For the research and technology development in rice, the inbred and hybrid, it is the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice); for the milk, milk products development, and the improved breed of carabaos that give the milk, the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), and for the tilapia, there's the CLSU Freshwater Aquaculture Center (CLSU-FAC) and the National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Center (NFFTC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, and the GIFT Foundation.

PhilRice has developed the appropriate farm machineries like micromill, paddyseeder, rotary reaper, stripper-harvester, flatbed dryer using rice hull as dryer, and the rice flour mill whose flour is good for products like chiffon, cake, brownies, cookies, rice cakes, special puto, gulaman, and improved espasol. It has also developed the technology for the production of rice wine, rice vinegar, shangrice, and nougat.

A PhilRice official said it is ready to share its technology with investors who are willing to set up the facilities for the production of rice wine. The PhilRice rice wine, which has already been exhibited in other countries and earned raves, is one commodity sought by visitors of the agency. Instant rice coffee, a product produced by a women's club, is also finding its way in the market.

PCC, says its executive director Dr. Libertado Cruz, now produces mozzarella cheese. Its P8.2 million plant is said to be the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. The center has also the technologies for the production of other milk products like pastillas, pulvoron, "kesong puti", lacto-juice, ice cream and others which it shares with different dairy cooperatives. He said Nueva Ecija now has 40 dairy cooperatives and has been declared the national impact zone for the "white revolution project".

Tilapia by-products development also goes in high gear and earlier successes now await commercialization. Processing of the tilapia meat into fish fillet, for local consumption and for export, is showing great promise as an industry.

Also, the National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Center has already scored a breakthrough in the breeding in captivity of the freshwater prawn (Macrobrachium rosenbergii) and also has the technology for the backyard, in rice farm and commercial production of this crustacean.

The BPHRIE has, on the other hand, developed pieces of machinery and technologies such as Mechanical Flash Dryer, Improved Corn Sheller, In-store Dryer, Outdoor Storage and many more to avoid losses in rice and corn production in so far as post harvest is concerned. It is also involved in developing technologies for the processing of fruits and vegetables.

Outside of those already mentioned, the projects of the R & D agencies in the city now gaining momentum are those in greenhouse technology, use of solar power in providing irrigation water, other technologies in water resource management, improvement of the breed of native goats, crop production techniques for vegetables, fiber, oil, and plantation crops like cotton, sunflower, sesame, soybeans, sericulture, and super peanut; tissue culture of banana, rattan and orchids; mushroom technology and production that involves an species found only in Nueva Ecija, and many more. As the R& D agencies never stop conducting researches and developing technologies, the list of the breakthroughs they score keeps on growing longer.

Agri-science Conglomeration. Off-hand, business-minded people can readily see the conglomeration of the products of agricultural science development in the Science City of Muñoz in a SiliconValley-like set-up.

This one dream is now the emerging concept among the leaders of the city and the heads and functionaries of the agencies in the city.

In CLSU, they are developing the concept of an "Applied Agriculture Centrum" in a 50-hectare area wherein the area will be subdivided and used as showcases of various technologies managed by farm families.

On the one hand, the city government as enunciated by its leaders has a readily available 100-hectare area waiting for development along the dream of a one-stop shop area. They are ready, as they said, to provide the incentives that can be given under existing limits for those who will come in.

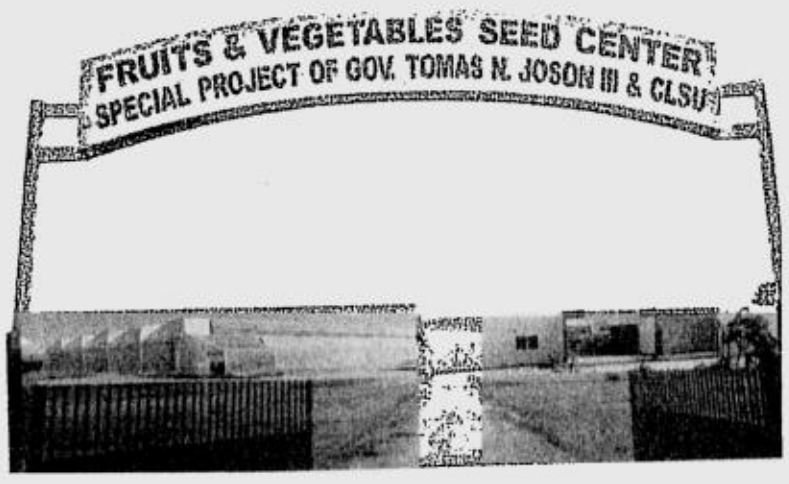
The province of Nueva Ecija, on the other, having premised future growth and expansion on the strength of its core agri-R&D resource, which is the Science City of Munoz, has an ever-growing commitment to the various research projects. After all, the technologies that are being developed in the Science City will be key to the province's ambition of agro-industrial ascendancy in the country.

Dr. A.S. Roque is a professor of CLSU and a media practitioner in Nueva Ecija.

Nueva Ecija Seed Center to boost productivity

"Agri-based research and development will be an indispensable hedge and safety net when we open Nueva Ecija to the global and regional markets."

This was emphasized by Gov. Tomas Joson III as he outlined his plans for the Nueva Ecija (NE) Fruits and Vegetables Seed Center, the first facility of its kind in the country. This affirms the province's goal to increase the productivity and raise the income level of farm families, he said.



The center is the latest addition to the cluster of research facilities at Central Luzon State University (CLSU), under a cooperation agreement between the province and the university.

"The key to successful agricultural production is having quality seeds," the governor explained.

The seeds center, started operations only in April this year, and is touted to become the country's leading seeds center for fruits and vegetables in due time. The center will provide quality seeds that will ensure higher yields. Development of such quality seeds through research is a continuing concern of the center.

"The quality of our seeds will allows us to keep our competitive edge in agriculture," Gov. Joson said.

The province initially invested some P50 million for the construction of the research and development facilities and the purchase of equipment, while the Department of Agriculture allocated another P10 M to support the activities of the center.

Under the technical cooperation agreement, CLSU provided a 10-hectare area to house the center.

Aside from the production and research area, the center also has an Israel-type multi-span greenhouse that will demonstrate the use of greenhouse technology for high-value crops production; an African-type agri-shade house; a research and development building that houses a crop protection laboratory, soils laboratory, microbiology laboratory, Biotech (tissue culture) laboratory, processing and seed tech laboratory, cold storage, fumigation room and a farm machinery building, as well as a sales office.

The seeds center will market and distribute quality planting materials of fruits and vegetables to supply the demand for priority tropical fruits and vegetables in Nueva Ecija and surrounding provinces. It will also maintain, propagate, introduce and distribute planting materials of exotic and new fruit varieties; provide technical and support services; and provide door to door sales service and feedback mechanisms to ensure effective operation.

The seeds center will specifically focus on priority vegetables and fruits like eggplant, pepper, tomato, ampalaya, okra, pole sitao, mango, calamansi, papaya, jackfruit, cashew, and other indigenous fruits and vegetables. JBC

Mike A admits Gloria angry, apologizes on TV

Story below, COL. 2

Malaysian lawyer writes for Inquirer



MALAYSIAN writer and lawyer Karim Raslan, the latest addition to the INQUIRER's team of columnists, will have his first column on Page 9 in today's issue.

MALAYSIAN/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Wednesday, September 3, 2003 ★★ 56 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 267 | website: www.inq7.net

RP in revolutionary situation, says bishop

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Two weeks of making the rounds in Metro Manila have convinced the incoming president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines that the country may be approaching a "revolutionary situation."

In an open letter to the public, Arch-

RP/ A6

Mike seeks pity; Udong, forgiveness



FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo taps the shoulder of his estranged godson Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay during the Senate hearing Tuesday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Ping told: Stop wearing skirt of parliamentary immunity

By Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's husband yesterday appeared at the Senate and demanded that his accuser "be a man" and stop "wearing the skirt of parliamentary immunity."

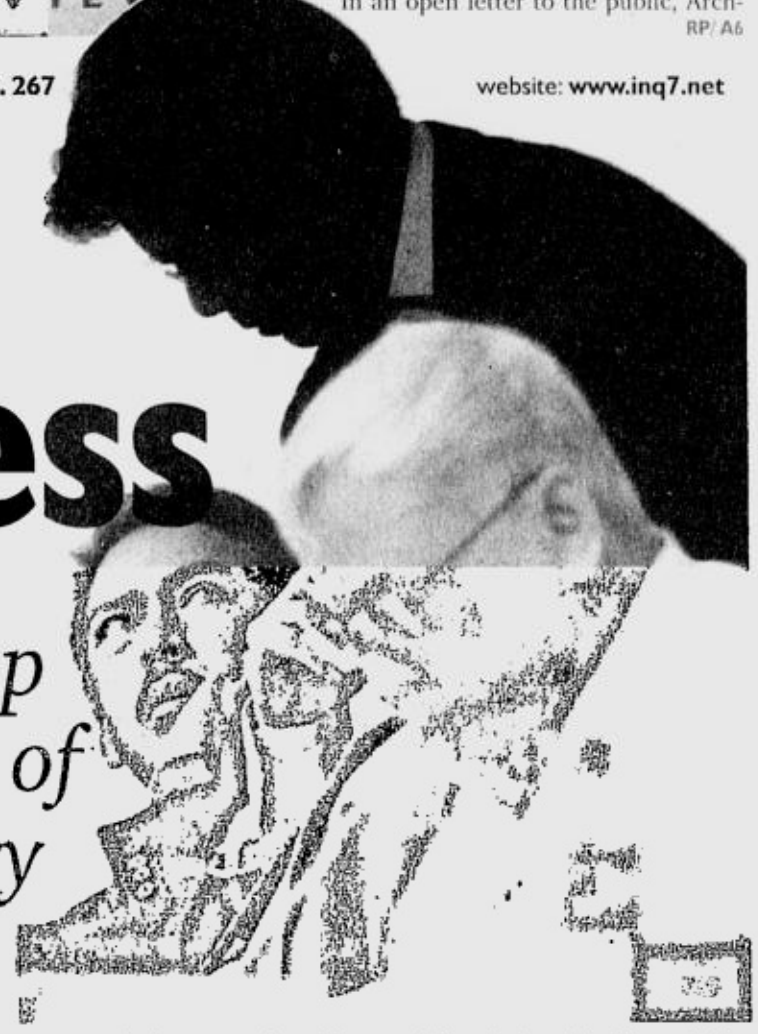
Speaking lengthily for the first time about Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegation that he had bank accounts containing multimillion pesos in laundered money, Arroyo said he was hurting not for himself but for his family, particularly his only daughter Evangeline or Luli. He said he had been "falsely accused" and had not committed any crime.

In a statement written in English and Filipino that he read before he was questioned by the senators, Arroyo declared that over and above his being the First Gentleman, he was "firstly" husband to a "hardworking wife" and father to "three wonderful children" all of whom he loved "very much."

He reminded Lacson that the latter's days as a police officer who "made up stories and cases against the innocent" were over. "Please don't do what you had done before," he said.

The First Gentleman also said he was "man enough to face all the efforts to malign me

MIKE SEEKS/ A18



SEN. Panfilo Lacson confers with opposition ally Sen. Tito Sotto during the Senate hearing presided over by Sen. Joker Arroyo. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Mahusay says revenge motive against 'ninong'

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

BY EUGENIO Mahusay Jr.'s account, revenge was what moved him to falsely accuse President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband and to fool Sen. Panfilo Lacson into believing his story.

Lacson's ex-star witness submitted a new statement to the blue ribbon committee and two other Senate committees that yesterday started its inquiry into the senator's allegations of corruption and money laundering against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

In the nine-page document, which was not notarized, Mahusay said he was clarifying his July 21 affidavit because it contained his statements that were false and invented, as well as statements that were put there

MAHUSAY/ A18

Lawmaker raps Ping for hitting below the belt

By Carlito Pablo

DEPUTY Speaker Raul Gonzalez said Sen. Panfilo Lacson could be held liable criminally and civilly for revealing in a privileged speech on Monday a letter supposedly sent by Victoria Toh to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Gonzalez said Lacson's "mischievous insinuations" that Arroyo and Toh, his accountant, were lovers and not just business partners were "below the belt."

"Whatever it is or whether it's

LAWMAKER/ A16



Senate show: From Mawanay to Mahusay

By Dona Pazzibugan

FROM clowns to lewd photos, from high drama to low comedy. Yesterday's blue ribbon committee hearing had almost everything—even the ghost of a whistle-blower past.

At one point, Sen. Panfilo Lacson began another

SENATE/ A16

Drilon says 'Jose Pidal' SPA worthless

By Michael Lim Ubac

UNLESS it contains the signature of "Jose Pidal," the special power of attorney (SPA), to be issued by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's younger brother to prove that the bank accounts under that name had already been closed, has no force and effect, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

Drilon made the clarification after Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, who claims to be Jose Pidal, accepted the challenge of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson for him to issue the legal document. Lacson has accused the First Gentleman of being Jose Pidal, the owner of multimillion-peso bank accounts.

On Monday, Ignacio Arroyo said he would issue the SPA to Drilon "so that he may withdraw any funds contained in the accounts (Lacson) has enumerated, and donate this to the employees of the Senate." The senator had earlier suggested that all the money to be withdrawn from the accounts should be given to Senate employees.

DRILON/ A18

'My brother is the rich Arroyo'

By Christine O. Avendaño

"MY brother will show you that he is the rich Arroyo and that he has lots of properties. He's the businessman."

This was what First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo told senators yesterday by way of pointing out that it was not he but his younger brother Ignacio Arroyo who was the successful businessman in their clan and, thus, the owner of the controversial Jose Pidal bank accounts.

Arroyo used this tack in parrying questions about the multimillion-peso bank

MY BROTHER/ A16

Mike A admits Gloria angry, apologizes

CORRUPTION allegations against President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband have put a strain on the First Couple's marriage, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo admitted last night.

Arroyo testified at a Senate public hearing Tuesday to deny allegations that he was laundering millions of political contributions for his wife.

He later went on nationwide television to apologize to the President and their daughter.

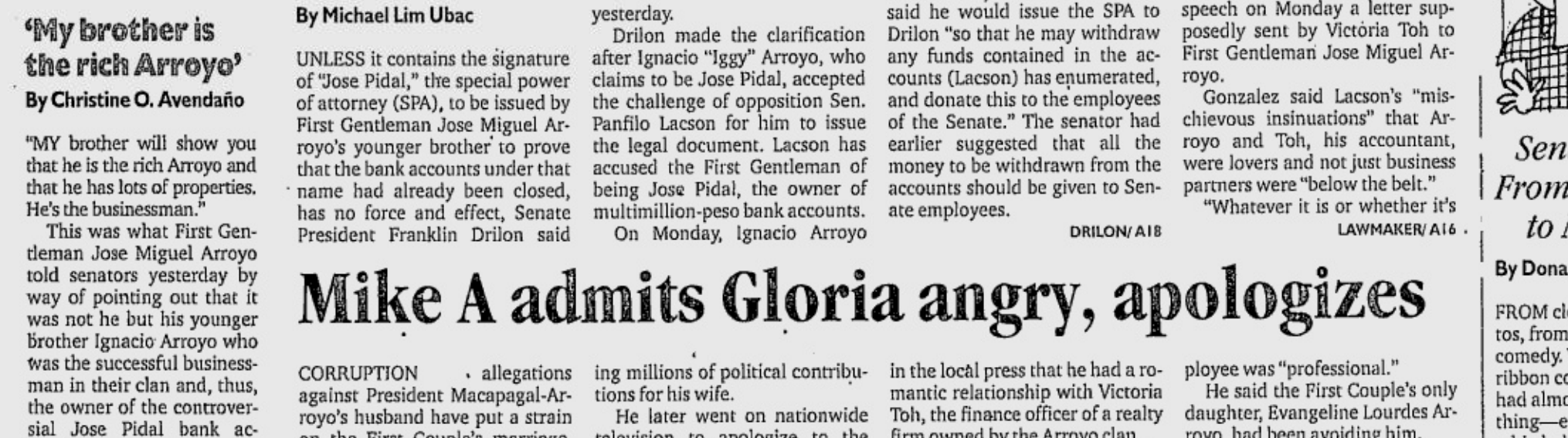
The President's husband admitted "it can't be helped" that his relationship with his wife would be strained by insinuations in the local press that he had a romantic relationship with Victoria Toh, the finance officer of a realty firm owned by the Arroyo clan.

Ms Macapagal, a 55-year-old mother of three, was "angered" by these suggestions, said her husband, who insisted that his relationship with the woman employee was "professional."

He said the First Couple's only daughter, Evangeline Lourdes Arroyo, had been avoiding him.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson had alleged last month that Toh, currently out of the country, had helped Jose Miguel Arroyo laun-

MIKE A/ A6



WET TUESDAY
Motorists and commuters brave knee-deep floodwaters at the foot of a flyover in Dimasalang, Manila, following heavy rains on the metropolis. The floods prompted school officials to suspend classes. *(Story in Metro, Page A20).*

ERIK ARAŻAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/03/03

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Monsoon Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Monsoon Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

GMA orders manhunt for Tacurong raiders

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr, Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a manhunt for the suspects in Monday's foiled kidnapping attempt of a rice mill owner in Tacurong City which resulted in five fatalities, including two policemen.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal urged the police to pursue the matter to its logical end.

Monday's attack on a rice mill in Barangay New Carmen, Tacurong City was believed to have been carried out by members of the notorious Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang which tried to abduct its owner, Roberto Ang.

The President expressed sympathy with the families of the two policemen, SPO3 Percy Antonino and SPO1 Hadji Bansil, who died in the performance of their duties. Antonino was killed during the attack on the rice mill while Bansil died while manning a checkpoint.

Commended

"We expect the PNP to honor these cops as well as those who helped foil the kidnapping for setting a sterling example to their fellow citizens. We commend the local police for their immediate response that led to the foiling of the kidnap attempt," the President said.

In Cotabato City, government forces yesterday killed four suspected Pentagon gang members involved in the failed abduction.

Brig. Gen. Agustin Demaala, 301st Infantry Brigade commander said four of the suspects were killed by government troops during hot pursuit operations.

The death toll in Monday's attack rose to 10 after one of the wounded civilians died while undergoing treatment at a hospital. The new fatality was identified as Peter Hong, a relative of Ang. The slain suspects were not identified.

Chief Insp. Raul Supiter, Tacurong City police chief, said two of the suspects were killed Monday afternoon by pursuing lawmen while two others died in a fierce firefight with government troops.

"They were among those who fired rocket propelled grenades and entered the rice mill office of Roberto Ang," Supiter said, adding that the group was later joined by members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Ang, who was wounded in the attack, is now out of danger but others remain in critical condition, Supiter said.

Demaala identified the group that pulled off the daring attack as belonging to Tahir Alonto and Mayangcang Saguile, two dreaded kidnap leaders operating in Central Mindanao.

"We expect kidnapping cases to rise because election is fast approaching," Supiter said, adding that many traders in Tacurong City, a bustling agricultural city in Sultan Kudarat province, have been receiving threats from kidnappers and extortionists.

Blocking force

Demaala said a bigger group, believed to be MILF rebels, served as blocking force against pursuing lawmen in Barangay Pimbalayan, Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat.

"We engaged them in a running gunbattle late Monday afternoon, we believe they suffered heavy casualties," Demaala said.

The Pentagon gang, founded by Alonto and Faizal Marohombsar in 1999, is composed of former Moro rebels. It gained notoriety in 2000 when it abducted five Chinese engineers working at a government irrigation project in North Cotabato.

Two of their captives were killed during a botched rescue operation. Others were freed after ransom was paid.

Marohombsar, who was arrested twice but escaped from his detention cell at Camp Crame, was later killed in a police operation in Cavite last year.

According to Demaala, Alonto, who carries a P300,000-tag for his arrest, was not with the suspects when they stormed the rice mill to kidnap Ang.

"The group was his group but he was not there, he is reportedly ill and in serious condition," Demaala, citing Army intelligence reports, said.

Like Supiter, Demaala believes the kidnap gang is being coddled by the MILF. "They operate in the same area—the Liguasan marsh, there must be some tactical alliance," he said.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied the allegation, saying that in the absence of a thorough investigation, linking the MILF to the failed kidnapping would be absolutely unfair.

Gloria vows to reform AFP as chief of DND

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo plans to use her short stint as chief of the Department of National Defense to recover lost ground in pushing the reforms in the military back on track.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said: "Precious time has been lost and we must multiply our gains. My priorities now are to reform the Armed Forces, push forward the peace process and relentlessly drive the anti-poverty campaign."

The President was hoping to "create an irreversible momentum of reforms to promote snappy performance, move logistics to the field and reward courage and sacrifice."

The President ordered DND officials and employees to be proactive and share the obligations and responsibilities in implementing the major changes in the military such as reforms in the procurement, strengthening the chain of command, ensuring the dominance of civilian authority and weeding out corruption.

The President took over the DND post in a concurrent capacity after she accepted the resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes Friday. The President plans to man DND post for at least 6 weeks.

Reyes is the second to resign from his post in the aftermath of the July 27 Oakwood mutiny. Military intelligence chief Gen. Victor Corpuz also vacated his post earlier.

The President is still undecided on whether Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., the last of 3 heads that the Magdalo group wanted to roll, would keep his post.

Opposition urged to rise above partisanship

By Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged the opposition to rise above partisanship and put a stop to mudslinging in view of the scheduled political summit.

She said her support for the summit, proposed by Senate President Franklin Drilon, did not mean she was supporting continued politicking.

As spadework for the summit continued, the President said she hoped a common and constructive framework could be reached.

People were tired of political grandstanding and were now yearning for genuine statesmanship, she said.

Expected to join the summit are leaders of various political parties, former presidents and senior statespersons.

Drilon earlier said the proposal to include senior statespersons guaranteed a "dialogue" that pro-administration politicians would not dominate. Aside from former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, he said, other politicians who have held high government positions could be invited.

Ms Macapagal consented to the political summit and a separate gathering of economic officials to repair the damage wrought by the failed military mutiny last July 27.

She instructed presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao and presidential legislative liaison Gabriel Claudio to coordinate with the leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives so that the summit could be held as soon as possible.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said opposition senators would block any attempt by Speaker Jose De Venecia to force the issue of Charter change (Cha-cha) into the summit's main agenda.

In an interview, Pimentel said the fate of Cha-cha could be decided only through legislation. *With Michael Lim Ubac*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

No raps yet vs Loi, says CIDG

By Christian Esguerra

THE CRIMINAL Investigation and Detection Group yesterday clarified that no complaint has been filed yet against Sen. Luisa Ejer-cito in connection with the July 27 mutiny.

CIDG chief Eduardo Matillano said he merely submitted to the Department of Justice last week a report on the senator's alleged involvement in the failed power grab.

"There is no complaint yet," he told reporters.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño confirmed Matillano's statement, saying the referral was still subject to evaluation.

In case DOJ prosecutors decided to charge Ejercito, Matillano said the Navy, not the CIDG, would act as complainant.

This is because it was Navy officers who recovered the three abandoned vehicles the mutineers were supposed to use in raiding the Naval Sea Systems Command Armory in Cavite, a day before the coup.

The vans were later traced to Ejercito and his family.

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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. The motto of Inquirer Libre is...
   a. Life's a party with Libre!
   b. Balanced News, Fearless Views
   c. Basta Libre, Bakit Hindi?
   d. The best things in life are Libre
2. Who created Darna?
   a. Francisco Coching
   b. Carlo J. Caparas
   c. German Moreno
   d. Mars Ravelo
3. Who gives advice in the Inquirer column *Chatroom*?
   a. There is no advice column of that title.
   b. Jolina Magdangal & Piolo Pascual
   c. Tessa Prieto-Valdes
   d. Niño Mark Sablan & September Mahino
4. Hong Kong was a former colony of...
   a. United Kingdom
   b. Spain
   c. Philippines
   d. Holland
5. The ancient alphabet of the Philippines is known as...
   a. Cuneiform
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GMA off to Brunei for economic meet

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo leaves today for Brunei Darussalam to address the 15th general meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC).

Ms Macapagal's plane is expected to touch down at the Brunei airport at 8:45 a.m. She will go straight to the venue of the meeting, which opened Monday.

The PECC is an independent, policy-oriented organization of high-level business, academic and government representatives from 22 Asia-Pacific economies.

Established in 1980, the PECC is the only tripartite nongovernmental organization and official observer to the Asia Pacific Economic Conference (Apec).

It is committed to promoting economic cooperation in the Pacific Rim, and has provided information and analytical support to Apec ministerial meetings and working groups.

The President is one of two keynote speakers on the closing day of the PECC meeting, the theme of which is "Securing the Future: A Strategic Path for the Next Decade." The other speaker is Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Dadawi.

After her address, Ms Macapagal will proceed to a private luncheon hosted by the Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Virginia Benavidez at the ambassador's residence. The President is also expected to meet with members of the Filipino community.

Before she leaves for Manila in the afternoon, she will have a one-on-one meeting with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam.

It is President Macapagal's second visit to Brunei since she assumed office in January 2001. She first time was on August 22, 2001. *Cynthia D. Balana*



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Lifestyle checks, peso weakness drive customs collection down

By Martin P. Marfil

DEMORALIZATION caused by the lifestyle checks is one reason that customs collections for the month of August have fallen short of the target by P394 million, according to bureau employees.

"We can't think straight," Romy Pagulayan, president of the Bureau of Customs Employees Association said.

Another factor, Pagulayan added, was the recent slide of the peso: "Importers have adopted a wait-and-see attitude."

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said preliminary reports for August placed the collections at P8.326 billion, short of the P8.720 billion target.

Undaunted by the shortfall, Bernardo said cumulative figures from January to August this year were better than those recorded for the same period last year.

"We're still over by P5.183 billion," he pointed out.

The customs chief agreed that importers were holding back due to the peso's poor performance.

But he said it was just "the lull before the storm," since importers usually became more active starting September, when they stocked up for the Christmas season.

And he did not believe the lifestyle audit had anything to do with the situation.

The Malacañang-initiated audit, which is being opposed by customs employees, has resulted in the filing of graft charges against some public works and customs officials.

Bernardo himself offered to resign earlier along with four of his deputy commissioners, saying that the lifestyle checks did not have any clear "rules of engagement."

Their resignations were not accepted.

Bernardo urged the bureau employees: "Let's make sure we exceed our September target by as wide a margin as possible."

After 'bitter pill,' BFAD looks into other concoctions

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE BUREAU of Food and Drugs is also looking into the classification of other herbal concoctions following the controversial circular against the use of *ampalaya* for diabetes treatment.

BFAD director Leticia Gutierrez mentioned the matter in a letter to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit on Aug. 14.

Dayrit had issued circular no. 196-A series of 2003 reclassifiying *ampalaya* from a scientifically validated herbal medicinal plant to folklorically validated herbal medicinal plant on June 23 but this was made public only last week following reactions from different sectors.

Gutierrez said that "other herbal preparations are presently being studied for appropriate classification" as mandated by a 1995 department circular.

She added that the BFAD was coordinating with the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development and National Integrated Research Program in examining the other herbal medicinal plants.

Gutierrez, however, did not identify these other herbal preparations. She was a in a meeting when the INQUIRER tried to reach her yesterday.

"We reiterate here in BFAD that we fulfill our mandate of ensuring safe and effective drugs. We likewise want to ensure the safety of food supplements," Gutierrez said in her letter dated Aug. 14.

Ampalaya is registered in the BFAD as a food supplement and is not intended to treat, diagnose, mitigate or prevent any diseases.

However, many diabetics have resorted to the intake of *ampalaya* food supplements and abandoned their prescribed medicines mainly due to the inaffordability of medicines and treatment.



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking
is dangerous to your health

Malaysian lawyer writes for Inquirer

From page A1

His weekly syndicated column is published by The Business Times (Singapore), The Star (Malaysia) and Sin Chew Daily (Malaysia). Karim also writes articles on an ad hoc basis for the Jakarta Post, The South China Morning Post, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Nation and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

He is the author of three books, "Ceritalah: Malaysia in Transition," "Heroes and Other Stories" and "Journeys Through Southeast Asia: Ceritalah 2." His books have been described by Nobel Laureate Sir V.S. Naipaul as "educated and elegant" and by Gareth Evans, the former Australian foreign minister as "sparkling, thoughtful and shamelessly opinionated."

He also contributes commentaries to international newspapers including the Los Angeles Times, The Guardian and the International Herald Tribune, as well as magazines and television shows such as the Far Eastern Economic Review, Foreign Policy, Granta, the BBC, CNN and CNBC.

He calls for a focus "on positive role models, people who are doing constructive things—building communities, institutions and families," especially at this time, with the Osama bin Ladens, the Amrozis and the Imam Samudras getting prominent play in the media "with their violent and murderous acts." Himself a Muslim, Karim believes that Southeast Asia's progressive Islam can be a strong weapon against Muslim extremism.

In his column, Eye on Asia, he expresses the thoughts and views of a Malaysian intellectual with a sensitive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Southeast Asian countries today.

His column will appear once a month in the INQUIRER.

Senate probe branded political circus

A POLITICAL circus involving allegations of corruption against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and threats of a coup against President Macapagal-Arroyo are doing the economy no good at all, analysts and officials yesterday said.

"It's a very distracting sideshow," Jojo Gonzales, managing director of Philippine Equity Partners, said of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations that Ms Macapagal's husband had stashed away at least P260 million in campaign contributions and other funds in a dozen bank accounts under false names.

Lacson, who plans to run for president, has said his accusations are part of the government's campaign against corruption. Analysts, however, find it hard to believe his charges have no political component.

"All the mud-slinging that's taking place raises the level of noise to the point where, from an investors' standpoint, they might just say, 'We'd rather not deal with that.' And it's happening far earlier than we imagined," Gonzales added.

The charges of Lacson and the verbal jostling of other potential candidates in the 2004 presidential election have raised fears that government policy will be paralyzed until a new administration takes over.

At another forum, the former head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday warned that Ms Macapagal faced a rough road to next year's presidential election, with political rivals seeking to stir up further upheaval to prevent her from retaining her post.



CORPUS: Destabilization plots against the Macapagal administration continue. REUTERS

"We can't expect the economy to improve immediately after the damage caused by the recent destabilization moves," Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, who recently resigned as Isafp chief following the failed Makati mutiny by junior officers, told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

Warnings of a well-funded destabilization plot by Angelo Reyes, who likewise had to quit his post as defense secretary in the wake of the July 27 mutiny, have also done little to counter nervousness among foreign investors.

Corpus, who is credited with exposing the rebellion by more than 200 junior officers, said Ms Macapagal's political rivals had not given up hope of stirring up the military to launch another coup attempt.

"I believe that the destabilization efforts will continue up to election time. They will prevent the administration from gaining legitimacy through election," Corpus, who now works under Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, said.

"They (political conspirators) will do everything to stop elections from happening, and they can do this by destabilizing the government and making the (AFP) officer corps lose their faith in government or democratic institutions so that a military takeover will occur," he added.

Corpus said he considered Ms Macapagal as "the best leader that we have now to steer the country for the next few years."

If proved, however, Lacson's allegations against the First Gentleman would be extremely serious and damaging to the President, who has waged a high-profile war on graft in government and the private sector.

Ms Macapagal has insisted she will not run in the presidential election eight months from now, although opinion is split on whether she will change her mind.

Despite winning higher public approval ratings for the swift and bloodless end of the Makati mutiny, Ms Macapagal has seen the local currency and stock prices plunge over political uncertainty.

Ricardo Saludo, deputy presidential spokesperson, acknowledged that "a number of things happening in recent weeks have served to diminish the confidence of the people in the country."

Political squabbling "tends to create an impression of instability," Saludo said.

"We're not saying it is in effect, directly destabilizing," he said. But "it can be exploited by groups that want to destabilize the government."

Ms Macapagal, however, said Tuesday she was confident that the findings of the Feliciano Commission which is looking into the Makati mutiny would help not only in bringing peace and justice to the AFP but also in restoring confidence in the country's political and economic stability.

"I am hopeful that the three weeks of hearings on the foiled coup have shed light on its root causes and provocations," she said.

"Enough of destabilization and strife. The energies of the nation must be refocused on the fundamental challenges of poverty, crime and terrorism," said Ms Macapagal, who has assumed the post of defense secretary in an acting capacity.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal was carefully going over the list of possible successors of Reyes. *Reports from Cynthia D. Balana, AFP and Reuters*

Mike A admits Gloria angry

From page A1

der millions of pesos in campaign contributions to several bank accounts under the fictitious name Jose Pidal.

The presidential husband, who looked tired after the daylong public hearing, addressed his daughter on GMA television:

"I just want to assure you that I love you very much. If there is any impropriety that has been committed because of this gossip, I'm very sorry I've caused you so much pain.

"And also to my wife, I'm very sorry," he added. *AFP*

RP in revolutionary situation, says new CBCP head

From page A1

bishop of Davao Fernando Capalla said his visit to the National Capital Region from Aug. 13 to 24 "brought me in contact with important persons in government, Congress, judiciary, military, business, ambassadors, foreign bishops and Muslim ulama, not to mention my brother bishops and priests and the formidable El Shaddai head and followers."

"Through these contacts, which were not my personal initiatives, I was told that we are now in a revolutionary situation," Capalla said in his letter, which he read aloud during a conference on Mindanao development held over the weekend.

"The main indicators, they said, are the Oakwood incident in Makati; the public investigations of the young military officers, more coup rumors, the suspension of Bangko Sentral Governor (Rafael) Buenaventura, the relentless exposés in the Senate against the First Gentleman and the unusual behavior of media which seemed to focus too much on the bad news. Aggravating the situation is the people's tendency to believe media reports without discernment."

Capalla, who formally assumes the CBCP presidency in December, took media organizations to task for accentuating the negative.

"In contrast, the overwhelming good news, which to me surpasses in number the bad ones, are taking a back seat in the media."

As examples of good news, he mentioned development projects in the countryside, peace initiatives which are "increasing in momentum and widespread support," and successes against illegal gambling like the *jueteng* numbers game.

Fragmentation

Without naming names, Capalla then castigated people in power who he said were tearing the country apart.

"It seems to me that the processes of fragmentation are being highlighted more than the processes of unification. And this causes alarm because those responsible are in positions of power, as such they can control the lives of people and bypass the rule of law towards their own sinister objectives," Capalla said.

This revolutionary situation, he said, requires a revolutionary answer: a "spiritual revolution."

He wrote: "If there is such a thing as a revolutionary situation in the political sense, it must be a reaction to the deterioration of moral and spiritual values affecting our society and people which underpin politics, economics and culture. So what is needed is not just a renewal but a revolution, a radical change, not only of political and social systems; there must also be a radical change of hearts and minds, of attitudes and behavior."



CAPALLA: Unusual behavior of media which seemed to focus too much on the bad news.

In particular, Capalla asked that everyone practice forgiveness.

"There is no future for our country and our people without forgiveness," he said, alluding to the experience of South Africa's Anglican Bishop and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Desmond Tutu. "To those who are concerned, and must be concerned, about the 'revolutionary situation' which is alarming us, I appeal (to them) to ponder seriously these words of our Holy Father addressed to the whole world at the beginning of January 2003: 'There is no peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness.'"

He noted that repentance and forgiveness are important tenets of both the Christian and Islamic faiths.

"I know that it is almost impossible to unite different and opposing political ideologies. But they can be put aside temporarily for the sake of the common good and national welfare," Capalla said.

He emphasized the need for people to humbly realize and accept failures and mistakes. "We who have suffered and have been victimized must also forgive," he added.

"We Filipinos have lost the ability to forgive. We have no trust in any attempt to introduce forgiveness into our public life. In fact, we consider such a proposition immoral since this would be tantamount to allowing (violators) of human rights and plunderers of our national resources to go scot-free."

He added: "Yet this concept ... is not an untested approach and its proponents are not romantic idealists. Forgiveness has been tested in nation-building and not found wanting."

"Let our generation today be the first Filipinos to apply the moral power of forgiveness in solving our never-ending conflicts," he said.

A TIME TO REFLECT
Part 3

Today, as the 2004 elections approaches, our leaders in Government - in the Senate and in Congress - find themselves caught in a situation where partisan politics has become bitter and divisive.

As a result, the Legislative Agenda - which should focus on peace and order, job creation, reducing poverty, and improving competitiveness - has taken a back seat. Needless to say, all this has further aggravated the economic slowdown.

THE URGENT CALL FOR STATESMANSHIP ON THE PART OF OUR LEADERS.

No matter what their political differences are, our leaders must show respect and exercise civility towards each other. Partisan and personality politics does not inspire our people; it only promotes divisiveness.

Unless our leaders respond to the call for statesmanship, the feeling of helplessness among our people will grow stronger each day.

Also, perhaps, this is the time to consider amending the Constitution to give rise to a Parliamentary System of Government.

IN THE MEANTIME, LET US NOT LOSE HOPE. LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF OUR LEADERS.

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Rains swamp Luzon in Onyok's wake

HEAVY rains lashed the island of Luzon yesterday as Typhoon "Onyok" moved away from the country, flooding highways in Central Luzon and rendering major roads in the North virtually impassable to all types of vehicles.

The government weather station Pagasa said 'Onyok' was passing north of the country, affecting mainly the northernmost islands of Batanes.

As of 10 a.m. Tuesday, the eye of the typhoon was located at 480 kilometers west northwest of Basco, Batanes with sustained winds of 150 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 185 kph. Onyok was moving west at 30 kph away from the country and was forecast to be 290 km west northwest of Hong Kong this morning.

Public Storm signal no. 2 was in effect over the northernmost Batanes, Babuyan and Calayan island groups, where coastal waters were rough to very rough, Pagasa said in its bulletin.

Storm signal no. 1 remained in effect for the northern provinces of Cagayan, Apayao and Ilocos Norte, it added.

Weather forecaster Winnie Gatab said while no public storm warning was raised over the Manila area, the typhoon has enhanced the southwest monsoon, dumping heavy rains on the capital and the western sections of the country.

The weather disturbance, however, would continue to induce the southwest monsoon and bring rains over Luzon and Visayas, especially in the western sections, according to Pagasa.

The Kennon Road going to Baguio City was declared impassable to light and heavy vehicles due to falling rocks and boulders, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Some portions of the highway in Candaba, Pampanga were also closed to all types of vehicles at 10 a.m. after these were flooded with one-foot high water and became swampy, the NDCC said.

Civil defense officials said there had been no reports of any casualties.

In its latest forecast, Pagasa said monsoon rains will still be felt in Northern Luzon and Western Visayas although there may no longer be typhoon over the Philippine archipelago.

Oakwood tapes show mutineers entered easily

By Volt Contreras

REBEL Magdalo soldiers strode into the Oakwood hotel-apartments casually and unopposed by private guards, security video tapes shown the Feliciano Commission revealed yesterday.

The Oakwood management furnished the commission with six VHS tapes that covered nine areas of the building and contained recordings from 1 a.m. of July 27 to 2 a.m. of July 28.

One footage showed a lobby guard in *barong* Tagalog opening the glass door for the first group of five to seven soldiers who entered the building at 1:47 a.m. on July 27.

These first arrivals—in fatigue uniforms and carrying high-power firearms—had shown up at the basement parking area at around 1:42 a.m. The footage failed to show the vehicles they used.

At the open steel gate leading to the elevator that would take them up to the lobby, they encountered two Oakwood guards, one male and one female. The guards, seen talking into handheld radios, seemed calm and made no attempt to stop the soldiers or close the gate.

First soldier to enter the frame looked like Scout Ranger Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, one of the five core leaders of the Magdalo group. This soldier approached the male guard and appeared to be speaking to him, but without making eye contact. He then gestured for his men to proceed.

During the viewing, commission chief counsel Mario Ongkiko noted that the Oakwood personnel "stood their ground" by remaining calm even as more rebel soldiers poured in.

The audio-less video footages also provided a top view of the press conference held by the Magdalo soldiers in the afternoon of July 27.

Likewise shown were media men freely roaming the premises, and rebel soldiers moving shopping bags and carton boxes presumably containing food.

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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 24
Series of 2003

TO : ALL LANDBASED LICENSED AGENCIES
SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION/ACCREDITATION OF LANDBASED PRINCIPALS

Pursuant to Section 10 Rule I, Part III of the POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Landbased Overseas Workers and in order to further streamline the procedures and requirements on the revocation and transfer of registration/accreditation of landbased principals/employers, the following guidelines are hereby issued:

I. Coverage

These guidelines shall apply to foreign placement agencies (FPAs) and direct employers that have valid registration or accreditation with a Philippine recruitment agency (PRA).

II. Requirements for Transfer of Registration/Accreditation

a. Verified or notarized revocation of the Special Power of Attorney (SPA) granted by the principal to the former agent;
b. Copy of revocation notice of principal to former agent;
c. Copy of acknowledgement of notice of revocation by the former agent;
d. Application letter of the new agent for the transfer of registration/accreditation, together with the requirements for registration/accreditation;
e. Affidavit of assumption of responsibility for all contractual obligations of the principal to its workers originally recruited and processed by the former agency, by the transferee agent; if the principal is a foreign placement agency (FPA).

III. Procedures on the Transfer of Registration/ Accreditation

a. Upon receipt of the requirements for transfer of registration/ accreditation, the Administration shall favorably act on the transfer.
b. In case the Administration receives a notice of objection on the revocation/transfer from the former agent prior to the action on the transfer, the Administration shall notify the principal accordingly;
c. Once the Administration is informed by the principal and the former agent that the problem has been settled, the Administration shall proceed with the transfer of accreditation/registration;
d. In case the principal contests the former agency's allegation, the matter is referred to the POEA Legal Counsel for conciliation.

IV. Conciliation of Claims

Claims for money or enforcement of obligations arising out of business relations between principals and their existing Philippine agencies may be conciliated by the Administration. However, the pendency of the conciliation shall not prevent the Administration from acting on the request for registration or accreditation if the public interest so requires and the applicant meets all the requirements for registration or accreditation. If no compromise or amicable settlement is reached during the conciliation proceedings, the parties are free to ventilate their claims before the proper forum.

All previous issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed. This Circular shall take effect 15 days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Administrator

26 August 2003

(PDI – September 3, 2003)

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Half-baked

EXCEPT for the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office check allegedly deposited in the bank account of Jose Pidal, not much of what Sen. Panfilo Lacson revealed last Monday has not been heard from the grapevine. If he has the smoking gun that proves wrongdoing on the part of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Lacson still has to show it to the public.

EDITORIAL

In the second chapter of his supposedly "explosive" exposé, Lacson came close to finally linking President Macapagal-Arroyo to a criminal act. He said a PCSO check for P1.35 million had been deposited in the Pidal account at the Bank of the Philippine Islands. He noted that the PCSO was not only under the Office of the President but also PCSO disbursements exceeding P100,000 needed the President's clearance. The implication, of course, is that the President was a party to corruption.

The PCSO, however, immediately belied Lacson's claim, saying that that particular LandBank check for P23,000 was issued to a lotto winner. And like Lacson, the PCSO presented documents to support its claim.

Common sense tells us the two conflicting statements cannot be both true. But which one is the truth? For now, we have no way of telling conclusively, just as we can't really tell for sure what is truth and what is fiction in the unfolding drama of Jose Pidal, as written by Lacson.

It has been more than two weeks since the senator, who is himself accused of serious crimes like money laundering, drug trafficking and kidnapping as well as the Kuratong Baleleng massacre, revealed the first chapter of the Pidal series. But in the exchange of charges and countercharges, more questions have been raised, leaving the country more riven and sowing more uncertainty.

Lacson is not even done yet. He promises yet a third chapter with more revelations to come, notwithstanding that the Senate inquiry into his allegations started yesterday.

What is Lacson really up to? Is he really bent on rooting out graft and corruption in government, as he claims?

"This is the time to welcome the truth, not to hide from it. This is the time to tell the truth, not to distort it," he said in his privilege speech Monday. But why until now is he deliberately restraining himself from spilling all the beans, so to speak? If he were not hiding from the truth, why is he hiding parts of it? If he were not distorting the truth, why is he not telling everything?

Lacson, as many people know, has announced that he would contest the presidency in next year's elections. Thus, the suspicion cannot be discounted that he is stretching out the Pidal drama to squeeze it of every inch of publicity mileage in pursuit of his presidential ambition.

The Pidal drama has been drawn out for far too long already. It is as if corruption could be fought only at its scriptwriter's own pace, much like a telenovela. It is as if the solution to this evil—which, according to Lacson himself, "has pauperized the nation, causing massive poverty, and inflicting rot and decay in our entire body politic"—demands little or no urgency. It is as if the "truth" he seeks does not involve a question of justice—not only for the people he has maligned, but also for the entire Filipino nation—and therefore can be made to suit his own personal and political purposes.

The Pidal drama has been contributing to the general feeling of instability in our country, pulling down the peso and the economy as a whole and prompting businesses to hedge their investments. In other words, the Pidal drama has become another debilitating episode in our national life.

If Lacson is leading a new crusade against corruption, why doesn't he bring the drama to a quick end by telling everything he knows? Then Congress, the prosecution service and the courts can evaluate his evidence and file the appropriate charges.

The sooner we get this drama behind us, the better it will be for everyone. And not just a part of it but the whole of it. Lacson will serve the interest of truth and the nation if he heeded the words he himself uttered on the Senate floor last Monday: "This is the time to tell the truth."

Truth and justice cannot be served half-baked.



Tribute to a journalist and prankster

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

WE all know that Heaven is, well, a heavenly place. But starting tonight, the angels, saints and lucky souls there will be chuckling and laughing and having a rollicking good time. Reason: Because a practical joker and prankster by the name of Teddy Berbano will be joining them.

Teddy, a journalist until he lost a long and gallant battle against colon cancer a few days ago, has been pulling pranks his entire life. Other journalists become legends for their skill in gathering information and writing and reporting them, but Teddy's legend will be about the pranks that he had pulled on his colleagues and friends. As early as when he was a boy in elementary school, he had been doing that, so he had plenty of time to gain experience, hone his skills and think of new jokes.

While vacationing in the province summers, Teddy and his friends would slip out of the house at night and rearrange and mix up the flowerpots on the porches of neighboring houses. The next morning, they would sit out on their own porch and watch the neighbors come out of their doors, see the surprise on their faces as they see for the first time the mixed-up flowerpots, and then scratch their heads trying to figure out what happened.

Teddy had been my assistant when I was editor, successively, of three newspapers: the Express, the Tribune and the Globe. In all, he entertained the newsrooms with his unexpected pranks. Often, his pranks would be continuing ones, going on for weeks or months.

In the Express, Joe, a young ad solicitor from the province, had a liking for Vicky, our headline typesetter. "Leave everything to me," Teddy told him, "I'll give her a gift and say it came from you." Teddy coached him on what to say to her when they meet.

Teddy told Joe he gave Vicky a bracelet. What he really gave her was a pair of panties, beautifully gift-wrapped. When they met, this was their conversation, Joe thinking that the gift was a bracelet, and Vicky thinking Joe knew he gave her panties:

Joe: "*Sinuot mo na ba?*"

Vicky (ever so polite): "*Hindi!*"

Joe: "*Sukat mo na. Pag suot mo na, gusto kong makita.*"

Vicky: "*Bakit gusto mo pang makita?*"

Joe: "*Nasa akin ang resibo n'yan. Pag tama ang sukat sa'yo, palalagyan ko ng pangalan mo. Gusto mo pangalan nating dalawa.*"

This went on for weeks. Each time Joe saw Vicky, he asked her if she had worn his gift. The bewildered girl thought Joe was being gross but was too polite to tell him so. Joe, who went to the office in coat and tie, had been introduced by Teddy to Vicky as "'*Yan ang* publisher."

A pair in the Tribune that Teddy played a prank on were Elvira and Guiller, a shy exseminarian who fell in love with the petite and pretty girl reporter. Teddy began writing love letters for both of them without their knowledge. Both thought the other was writing letters unbidden, without reference to the earlier letters he/she (a.k.a. Teddy) had written to each other. This also went on for weeks. The prank came unhinged when the two finally talked lengthily in the canteen, with Teddy watching with friends from another table. There was an argument and a showing of letters and the two learned of the prank when Teddy's group burst out laughing.

Nobody was sacred to Teddy's pranks, even our bosses. It was Teddy's habit in the Express newsroom, when Pocholo Romualdez, our executive editor, was not around, to shout for everybody to hear: "Pocholo, *pagtimpla mo nga ako ng kape!*" Everybody would howl in laughter.

One day, as he shouted the order, Pocholo had just come in through the door and heard him. Teddy went pale and the newsroom was suddenly quiet, but Pocholo didn't say anything. He is a gentleman and had a sense of humor, but he did complain to the people in the mechanical department: "*Pag wala pala ako dito, taga timpla lang ako ng kape ni* Berbano."

A few days before one Christmas, many staffers received a letter from Malacañang: "Merry Christmas to you. Please get your gift from the Press Office." It was signed "Imelda Marcos."

When Express staffers started showing up at the Press Office to ask for their gifts, Press Secretary Gregorio Cendaña was bewildered. Shown the letter on Malacañang stationery, he checked, then howled: "We never sent this." He summoned Ching Suva and asked who sent the letters. "Not us," she replied. It was a big mystery in the Press Office until it filtered back that it was another brainchild of Teddy Berbano.

Teddy had his first colon cancer operation in 1988 when we were in the Globe. We all thought that he had licked the Big C. But it returned in 2001. And when they opened him up again, it was an "open-and-shut" case. It was too late. Teddy knew he was soon going to write "30."

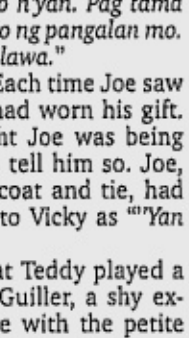
Of all the newspapers I worked with (I also worked with the Evening News, the two Manila Chronicles, the old and the new one and now the INQUIRER), the most closely knit family was the Express, and Teddy Berbano (and Alice H. Reyes) were two reasons for that. Although the Express had long been disbanded, its former employees from all departments regularly hold reunions. At the last reunion a year or so ago, Express alumni from abroad flew home just for the occasion. Teddy had already lost a lot of weight by then but he still was among the principal organizers.

It was perhaps a tribute to his reputation as a prankster, that when the news of his death was faxed to all the newspapers, the deskmen hesitated from using it. Ever careful, one INQUIRER deskman replied when asked why: "We have to check it."

They thought it was another joke from Teddy.

Still waiting for Pidal

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

I HAVE two brothers and I have just looked at their signatures. They are nowhere near like mine. My younger brother's is even more of a scrawl than mine, and my elder brother is far more a disciplined march of letters than ours. The fact that we share the same genes has not given us to share the same handwriting characteristics. Nor do I know of any two brothers, including twins, who do. Even twins have been known to be separate individuals, with separate identities and separate signatures.

I say this of course because of Ignacio Arroyo's claim that he, and not his elder brother, Mike, husband of the President, is Jose Pidal. He is the true owner of the millions of pesos, and other undisclosed amounts, in the banks credited to that name. He cannot understand, he says, why Panfilo Lacson insists on attributing the name, and the accounts, to his brother when they are really his. He used a pseudonym, he says, because like all other prosperous businessmen, he fears being kidnapped in this country.

Well, at the very least that mystery is easily settled by comparing Ignacio's signature with the Jose Pidal Lacson presented in the first installment of his exposé. No amount of practicing signing another name will succeed in producing an identical copy. Certainly, not two weeks' practice. That is not enough to produce even a reasonable facsimile. Only teachers are duped by that, as truants who write excuse letters signing them with their parents' name, know very well. And that is only because teachers do not bother to compare the signatures of their students with their parents, they have better things to do. While at that, we may wish to look at the school records of Mike and Ignacio Arroyo to see if they had episodes of this while at the Ateneo.

There is only one other category of people who are duped by this, and that is the members of Lacson's favorite organization, which is the Philippine National Police. I saw Dr. Mely Sorra, the PNP handwriting expert, on TV the other week, and I was almost sorry I said those things about her. What can I say? She has mouths to feed like me. She was still insisting on her "Seven Points of Divergence"—it sounded almost like the "Seven Pillars of Wisdom," she must at least have had some classical training—to show that Jose Pidal and Mike Arroyo are not the same. But the most telling aspect of her testimony still remained her comment that, "It is possible there was a strong attempt to copy the First Gentleman's signature."

I asked then why anyone in his right mind who has millions and millions of pesos stashed in the banks could possibly make "a strong attempt to copy" another person's signature, least of all the First Gentleman's. You never know, for all the First Gentleman's fortitude and forbearance, he could be tempted to claim the deposits himself. I ask now why Ignacio Arroyo would make a strong attempt to copy his elder brother's signature. Because Pidal's signature and that of Mike Arroyo's are very similar, notwithstanding Sorra's "Seven Points of Divergence." As far as I know, my younger brother has not made a strong attempt to copy mine.

The Bible merely suggests that we be our brother's keeper. It does not suggest that we be our brother's keeper of bank accounts.

But I am glad at least that in this country the spirit of brotherhood is still alive, brothers still prepared to take the rap for their brothers. Because if Ignacio Arroyo is Jose Pidal, he should be indictable on several counts.

At the very least his justification for using an alias in depositing an account—namely, his fear of kidnappers—must suggest he has very little confidence in his sister-in-law's claim that she has got crime beat, businessmen may now sleep the sleep of the just, or revel in the profit of the ruthless. It cannot be a boost to the presidential anti-crime campaign that the President's own brother-in-law does not trust in its efficacy. Well, the problem with bad lines is that they have bad implications.

More than that, it flies in the face of the one thing his sister-in-law presumably wants done posthaste, which is to enforce transparency in bank transactions. That was the one bill she signified as priority in Congress. Ignacio Arroyo's act of depositing millions of pesos as Jose Pidal, if true, makes him liable either for tax fraud, falsification of documents or even money laundering. Until Ignacio came out to claim the Jose Pidal accounts—beating me and my idol Pidol to it—the BIR did not know about it. The BIR officials who have just been the subject of a lifestyle check, and who have been found enjoying themselves far beyond the call of ability, may wish to turn the tables on those pointing the finger at them.

The falsification of public documents is far more patent. As the other Arroyo, the Joker among these wild cards, knows very well, that was what brought down the previous government. The one thing that did it in was Joseph Estrada signing his name as Jose Velarde in front of a very credible witness named Clarissa Ocampo. No witness is needed in this case as Ignacio Arroyo has voluntarily claimed to have done so. If I recall right, Erap himself was at pains to know what was so very wrong in using another name to sign a check. He had infinitely more reasons to wonder why. After all, he became president of the country while using a completely fictitious name, which was his screen name.

What is so wrong with that you'll find in the arguments then of the very people who are defending its rightness now. If anything good at least has come out of this, it is to demonstrate that Ateneo does indeed produce "a man for others."

Ignacio Arroyo seems perfectly willing to go to jail for others.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com.ph

A fishing exercise

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

WATCHING on TV or radio the Senate hearings on charges of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, accusing Mike Arroyo, husband of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, of alleged money laundering, one cannot escape the impression that the inquiry is an exercise in trawl fishing.

Without making judgments on whether or not Arroyo is guilty of Lacson's charges, the hearings speak more about the inquisitorial Senate process and Lacson's method and political objectives than it does of Arroyo's transactions.

The context against which the hearings are to be set is that they, as the senators never fail to remind us, are merely "fact-finding" and cannot end with conviction or acquittal of the accused. Unlike in the courts of justice, people indicted for criminal offenses see a decisive end—conviction or acquittal. But in a legislative inquiry, sparked off by an accusation of a member of Congress itself, an accused is forever damned, put under a cloud and the ultimate decision is rendered by public opinion—hence, the Senate hearings are essentially a political trial.

From this premise, it should be clear that Lacson's purpose in unleashing his so-called exposé in two privilege speeches is to damage the Macapagal administration by hitting Arroyo rather than the President, but not to send Arroyo to jail. This is the reason why Lacson is not taking up the challenge of Mike Arroyo to file criminal charges in the courts, where issues are sharply defined and charges are subject to rigorous scrutiny under the rules of evidence. Lacson knows his charges cannot stand judicial scrutiny, and he is hurling them behind the shield of parliamentary immunity that does not require him to back his charges with hard evidence.

Metaphorically speaking, standing on the dock in the Senate, either as an accused or as a witness, is like being dissected in an autopsy while one is still alive. Alternatively, it is like standing on a scaffold, with a noose tightened around your neck, while each time you talk you provide evidence against yourself.

The Senate hearings in the past couple of days abundantly show that the hearings have very little discipline and digress from issues germane to the accusations of Lacson. There is no formal and well-defined charge sheet in the hearings that sprang form Lacson's charges although, in the interest of being factual, it can be said Lacson has disclosed documents of bank accounts into which Arroyo allegedly siphoned laundered money.

Most of the documents so far seek to determine who is "Jose Pidal," said to be the owner of the secret accounts; and the second speech on Monday tried to link the President to the transactions through the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (which is under the Office of the President). The rest of the speech was devoted to unalloyed gossip-mongering, when Lacson, in a crude attempt at sarcasm asked 21 times, "Mr. Jose Pidal, *alam ba ni* Mrs. *ito*(h)?" One may ask, what's the real purpose of Lacson, break up a family? Or demolish an administration? Or seriously prove his case with evidence?

On the stand in the Senate yesterday, Mike Arroyo was riddled by a series of questions that had little to do with the transactions denounced by Lacson. For example, the senators interrogated him over real property alleged to be owned by Mike Arroyo and, by implication, the President, in San Francisco, and whether Mike paid income taxes over the sale or lease of the property, in the United States. The senators were clearly treading on ground that is the concern of the US Internal Revenue Service, and were again churning up an old case which the Senate had investigated in the past.

If the charges had been filed in the courts, such questions would have been thrown out by a judge for being irrelevant.

Taking another tack that has little to do with the main theme of Lacson's charges, other senators asked questions tracing Arroyo's family tree (the landed Tuason family) and seeking information about who his friends are, where he was at any give time of the day, what time he spent in his law office on Perea Street, Makati, whom he saw on his weekends, and what he and his visitors talked about.

This line of interrogation illustrates the argument that congressional investigations constitute a flagrant violation and invasion of the privacy of individuals.

One may ask whether these questions, even asked for the purpose of fact-finding, have helped prove Lacson's case or have served the public interest, since corruption either by members of a president's family or by public officials cannot be combated by using the Senate as an arena for reckless accusations and gossip-mongering. What has emerged from the few days of the Senate hearings are:

First, Senate hearings have become the forum where witnesses are pushed into a corner where they produce evidence to incriminate themselves. Secondly, in the hearings, witnesses are completely stripped of their privacy. Thirdly, the hearings have diminished the Senate as a tribunal that promotes general public interests and has converted it into a tool for vilification at the hands of one of its members. I am not sure whether the hearings have enabled Lacson to prove his case. He needs to do more hard work, and less theatrics, to assemble and organize his evidence in order to pinpoint wrongdoing by the President whose impeachment he is leading up to.

If we talk of public opinion, a backlash is building up on Lacson and the Senate. Lacson's exposé has damaged his political future than it has harmed Arroyo, a non-official.

Coming to 'kuya's' rescue

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

IF for nothing else, we will remember Sen. Ping Lacson's piecemeal exposé on the "Incredible Hulk" for the way it has highlighted Filipino kinship ties, both by blood and by affinity.

Earlier, I had pointed out the complex ties of loyalty, gratitude, and obligation that bound "Udong" Mahusay, Lacson's putative star witness against the First Gentleman, to the Macapagal-Arroyos. Now comes a closer relation, Mike Arroyo's younger brother Ignacio, known as "Iggy," who has stepped up to claim that he is in fact "Jose Pidal," owner of the secret bank accounts that Lacson used to accuse the President and her husband of money laundering.

This isn't the first time that Iggy Arroyo has taken the rap for his *kuya*. If you will recall, a few months before the 1998 elections, this paper bannered a story and photos of commercial buildings in San Francisco that then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband had failed to mention in their statement of assets and liabilities. The news was a bombshell because GMA was then considered a "shoo-in" for the presidency. To defuse the charges, Mike Arroyo presented his younger brother, a resident of Bacolod, who eagerly avowed ownership of the controversial buildings.

Still, Iggy Arroyo's declaration apparently had little effect on public perception, and it is widely held that it was this exposé on their San Francisco real estate that forced GMA to reconsider her political plans and agree to run as vice president with the Lakas frontrunner, Speaker Joe de Venecia.

To be fair, it must be mentioned that despite the damage the revelation had dealt her presidential ambitions, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo emerged victorious from the 1998 polls—garnering a wide margin of winning votes over De Venecia and even over that of the winning presidential candidate, Joseph Estrada.

* * *

SO it remains to be seen whether the re-surfacing of Iggy Arroyo to his brother's rescue will have any impact on clearing the cloud of doubt with which Lacson has managed to envelope the President and her husband. If Iggy was not successful then, what makes them think he will clear them now?

Friends from Bacolod say they couldn't help laughing out loud when Iggy first strolled into the spotlight, claiming to be the actual owner of two pieces of prized San Francisco real estate. Though he, like the First Gentleman, belongs to a wealthy clan, Iggy apparently has little to show by way of what's known as "visible means of support."

If his town mates could hardly believe that he was the owner of two buildings in the United States, I wonder how they're reacting now that he's revealed he used to have hundreds of millions of pesos in a bank, albeit under an assumed name.

Still, one can't but feel sorry for Iggy. Here he's come forward, offering his neck (for discrepancies between his alleged actual income and income tax declarations, for one) to save his brother and sister-in-law from a senator's attacks, only to be met with derision and disbelief. He even claims to be a "better businessman" than his brother, by way of explaining why he has been able to amass such fantastic wealth, at least as claimed by Lacson. How it must rankle him that, by doing his brother a good turn, he has now become an object of ridicule.

* * *

JUDGING from call-in reactions to radio and TV shows yesterday, the public seems to be giving credence to Lacson's revelations. It was an impressive presentation, after all, chock-full of details, from bank account numbers, check numbers and even a bit of amateur handwriting analysis by the senator.

But maybe it's the details that will derail the "Incredible Hulk" exposé. Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chair Honey Girl de Leon immediately debunked Lacson's claim that two checks (in millions of pesos) from the PCSO found their way to the Jose Pidal account. Brandishing records, she showed that the two checks bearing the numbers detailed by the senator, for much smaller amounts than claimed, had been issued to a lotto winner and to someone requesting for medical assistance.

How could a single check have gone to two separate individuals, and bearing very different amounts? De Leon offered a theory: Either Lacson had been duped, *nakuryente* in street parlance, meaning he had been given wrong information; or the claim about the PCSO checks was a clear fabrication.

The matter of the PCSO checks is crucial, for on them hangs the validity of Lacson's claim that they directly link the President, not just her husband, to the money-laundering scheme, leaving her vulnerable to charges of betraying the public interest.

* * *

STILL, portions of Lacson's exposé leave a bad taste in the mouth, as in the first part of his "strip tease."

In the guise of alleging that Mike Arroyo's accountant Vicky Toh had been issuing checks (with a different signatory) from the questionable accounts, Lacson used an alleged "love letter" by Toh where she used the word "only" to compare with the word "only" in the check. But if he wanted to highlight just the word "only," why did he have to read the rest of the note?

It was obviously a sly, underhanded way of imputing a romantic, or at least not just businesslike, relationship between Toh and Arroyo, although Lacson does not bother to say to whom Toh's alleged note is addressed. But Lacson upped the malice quotient even more by asking, at the end of each slide, "*Alam ba ni* Mrs. Ito(h) (Does the Mrs. know about this)?"

Appending the "h" to *ito* was apparently meant to insert Vicky Toh into the discussion, although Lacson must have been aware that ending many words in "h" is a way of transcribing the colorful way of talking of Pinoy gays.

Bad news in history

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN a historian publishes his work, he opens himself to both praise and criticism. Over the years I have had my share of both and it goes without saying that I often prefer insincere flattery to harsh criticism. In the Philippines there is always a personal side to things that make the remark "Boss, *walang personalan, trabaho lang ito*" so consoling. In time, I learned to take constructive and valid criticism and ignore petty personal attacks, however, the only comment I have never recovered from came from a student who asked why I had such a negative view of our history. Looking back on the 1998 centennial countdown I wrote for the front-page of this paper, I realized the remark was true. Was this pessimism due to the historical sources or me?

To redeem myself, I embarked on the 1999 millennium series that highlighted all that was good, true and beautiful in our past in terms of culture and art. All these thoughts came back as I went through a chronology in Fredrick H. Sawyer's "The Inhabitants of the Philippines (1900)." He compiled high points of our history from 1521 to 1900 and these were, "Some of the combats, massacres and rebellions, disputes and calamities of the Philippine Islands." Naturally he begins with the death of Magellan in 1521 describing him as "killed in action" by Mactan natives. Those who survived Lapu-lapu's wrath were "treacherously killed by Hamabar [Humabon], king of Cebu." Sawyer's list is engaging because it is violent and one should say—negative. Just like our front-page news. Good news doesn't seem to be front-page material except on Sundays when the INQUIRER tries its best to be positive and sunny. History and journalism record massacres and calamities more than childbirth and goodness. Yet, this is no excuse. A historian may be faced with negative data but his narrative can still be positive, and vice-versa. In the end the buck stops with the historian's story—how he does it and what he expects to achieve.

I notice in Sawyer's chronology that Filipino participation is not very pronounced in the first three centuries of Spanish rule because the sources are by Spaniards and for Spaniards. Thus, there are entries on the failed expeditions of Gomez Perez Dasmariñas to the Moluccas (in 1582, he had to go home after two-thirds of the expedition were downed by epidemic; 1584, no luck again; 1593, "He had with him in his galley 80 Spaniards and 250 Chinese galley-slaves. Because of contrary winds, his vessel put into port near Batangas for shelter. In the silence of the night, when the Spaniards were asleep, the galley-slaves arose and killed them all except a Franciscan friar and secretary. Dasmariñas built the castle [Fort] Santiago and fortified Manila with stone walls, cast a large number of guns and established the college of Sta. Potenciana). Dasmariñas, who is best remembered for a busy Binondo street and a posh Makati subdivision, also had a failed expedition into Cambodia in 1597. This, technically, is not our history but interesting to see how Spain tried to use the Philippines as a foothold to get into the rest of Asia.

In 1596, a Spanish galleon bound for Acapulco had to seek shelter from bad weather in a Japanese port where it was seized by the authorities and "the crew were barbarously put to death." Speaking of massacres, the most horrendous was in 1603. "Conspiracy of Eng-Cang and the Chinese against the Spaniards. The Chinese entrench themselves near Manila, Luis Perez Dasmariñas marches against them with 130 Spaniards. They were all killed and decapitated by the Chinese, who then besieged Manila, and attempted to take it by assault. Being repulsed by the Spaniards, all of whom including the friars, took up arms, they retired to their entrenchments. They were ultimately defeated, and 23,000 of them were massacred. Only 100 were left alive, and these were sent to the galleys as slaves." This should make the Binondo Chinese rethink their history and the street named after Dasmariñas.

Another Chinese uprising in 1639 described as "Insurrection of Chinese in the province of Laguna and in Manila. Out of 30,000, 7,000 ultimately surrendered. All the rest were massacred by the Tagals. The Japanese revolted in 1607; 1622, natives in Bohol, Leyte, Cagayan revolt. 1653, revolt by people of Pampanga who refused to work for free cutting timber for the navy."

Natural calamities take up much space. Mayon eruptions in 1616, 1766, 1800, 1814. Taal eruptions in 1641, 1716 and 1749 which lasted 20 days. In 1754 "violent eruptions which began on 15th May and lasted till end of November. This was accompanied by earthquakes, an inundation, terrifying electrical discharges and destructive storms. The ashes darkened the country for miles round, even as far as Manila. When the eruption ceased, the stench was dreadful, and the sea and lake threw up quantities of dead fish and alligators. A malignant fever burst out, which carried off vast numbers of the population round about the volcano." Earthquakes in 1599, 1627, 1628, and in 1646 a series began in March with violent shocks that lasted 60 days. More in 1648, 1658, 1665, 1675, and in 1735 an earthquake in Baler and tidal wave in 1787 Panay, 1796 Manila. Like the front page of the newspapers, good news is hard to sell in history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

What kind of a democracy is ours?

EYE ON ASIA



Karim Raslan

FAREED Zakaria, the editor of Newsweek International, has written a book that should be required reading for all Filipinos involved and/or interested in politics and governance. In the aftermath of 9/11, American academics and public intellectuals have been re-examining the nexus of democracy, liberty and security. And the most thought-provoking of these works are coming from influential left-of-center figures like Fareed—an Indian émigré and former editor of the leading US foreign policy journal, Foreign Affairs.

Given recent events in the Philippines and the pervasive air of instability, the country's political elite (and this includes the country's all-powerful military) must reassess the balance between democracy and liberty. Has the Philippines, as Fareed might argue in "The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad" become a country like the United States—a country that values simple-minded populism and openness above integrity, leadership and long-term planning? Has the Philippines deteriorated into an unfettered, dysfunctional democracy—a country in danger of discrediting the very idea of democracy itself?

That is not to say that Fareed is uncritical of his adopted homeland. He decries the chronic short-termism of America's political leaders. Certainly one wonders how he would view the current shenanigans in California that look set to deliver the state to a former actor and body-builder whose greatest contribution to public life hitherto has been the immortal phrase "Hasta la vista, baby"?

Still, he is even more disdainful of India's increasingly fractious and bloody religious-based politics, reserving his most stringent comments for the many so-called democratic leaders who have stoked the fires of ethnic conflict in order to promote their own careers. He also points out that India's democratic virtues have in fact condemned the nation to a shockingly low position—124th (out of 173) on the United Nation's 2002 human development index "behind China... but even behind Guatemala, Bolivia, Syria and Cuba."

Having said this, he acknowledges that America unlike most Third World democracies, is redeemed from chaos by three key forces: firstly, the rich complexity of its social order; secondly, its prosperity and substantial middle class; and thirdly, an underlying commitment to constitutional liberalism—namely, the rule of law, the separation of powers and the protection of basic liberties of speech, religion and property. The third factor has over the decades ensured the freedom of the individual from arbitrary authority and especially the depredations of an all-powerful state.

Fareed's arguments are particularly compelling for us in Asia. His emphasis on the need to build an economic base resonates in countries such as China, Malaysia and Singapore where democratic freedoms have long been severely curtailed in the interests of maintaining societal stability. He dismisses the foolish idea that democracy and economic liberalization can be imposed on fractious and under-developed societies. Moreover, he points out that wealth and prosperity are vital to the introduction and long-term health of constitutional liberalism, though he distinguishes between resource-rich nations (such as those of the Middle East) where state control of wealth has hampered the emergence of a middle class wedded to bourgeois ideals of representative government.

However, this does not mean that Americans (or indeed Fareed) are any less committed to liberal democracy: far from it—support for democracy remains deeply rooted and enduring. Instead, there is a growing realization that a "big-bang" approach to political change, especially in immature and hitherto authoritarian societies, can backfire badly—witness the near-anarchy of Indonesia and Russia.

Fareed implores us to understand the importance of political continuity, the role of history as well as a graduated approach to reform. For example, he questions the idea that the mere holding of an election should mark a country's transition into democracy. Nowadays we know that an election is merely one of a very large number of factors that need to be present in order for a democracy to flourish.

The sequencing of liberalizing policies is also vital: different countries require different policies, crafted according to the respective domestic socio-political and cultural environments. Many of these ideas—unthinkable as recently as five years ago, are now becoming increasingly mainstream.

Fareed also goes on to argue that democracy cannot survive in a society that doesn't value constitutional liberalism—the rule of law, the separation of powers and the protection of basic liberties of speech, religion and property. In such countries democracy can end up being abused in the name of the majority.

In fractious societies, divided by class, caste, race or religion, mere elections can result in the dictatorship of the majority as one group secures power to the disadvantage of the other: something Fareed calls the "dark side of democracy." He goes on to explain, "Once an ethnic group is in power, it tends to exclude other ethnic groups. Compromise seems impossible."

Given the frailties of human nature, Fareed argues that democracy's advocates must adapt their message to environment. It makes no sense to introduce democracy if the end result will be the tyranny of one section of the population by another. Far more effective to get involved in institution-building, nurturing civil society groups through education and training. Obviously such arguments have eluded the American occupation forces currently in Iraq, who initially over-estimated the country's ability to cope with democracy and have since then rejected any form of local participation entirely.

Still, it would be wrong to think Fareed is rejecting democracy: he isn't. All he's doing is pointing out that it isn't the sole panacea to a country's ills. He argues that while the march toward liberal democracy is a laudable goal, different countries and societies will march at different speeds. And this is where the argument returns to the Philippines. Given that the republic is once again struggling with the realities of democracy, Filipinos must question their priorities: Is more democracy the solution to the country's problems? Is the balance between democracy and liberalism being lost? Has the country's economic viability been destroyed by a refusal to look to the interests of the population at large? Or is the Philippines condemned to become a "poster child" for Indian-style democracy: free but impoverished, its best minds fleeing, like Fareed to an environment where they can flourish?

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Holy smoke!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

AS far as I know, Republic Act 9211 (No-Smoking Law) has been signed. This law is applicable to all individuals residing, visiting or staying, for whatever reasons, in the Philippines.

Apparently, not too many people have taken this law to heart. Either they are unaware of the law or simply ignoring it (which is not too surprising, knowing the attitude of Filipinos).

May I request the government agencies, LGUs, etc. to please disseminate information about this law. It is very disappointing to see several individuals (or even establishments, for that matter) disregarding this new law.

Just go to the malls—SM, Glorietta, Robinson's, Alabang Town Center, etc. and you'll find several smokers inside their respective premises.

—MARTIN LORENZO VILLARUEL, meet_martin@yahoo.com

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Was Oakwood an assault on democracy?

"PMA a hatchery of coup makers?" by Amando Doronila (PDI, 8/22/03) fixes the blame on the wrong cause. There is nothing wrong with the Philippine Military Academy; there is something wrong with conventional wisdom, on which Doronila's analysis is based.

"...(W)ithin a space of 17 years, between 1986 and July 2003," writes Doronila, "Philippine democracy has been rocked by eight coup attempts, all of which were led by PMA alumni."

The assumption of conventional wisdom is that Oakwood was a coup try against democracy—the democracy that was restored, Doronila says, by Edsa I in 1986.

But to some Filipinos, what Edsa I restored, which continues to obtain today, is not democracy but the pre-martial law oligarchy, aptly symbolized (in the light of the PPA) by the return of Meralco to the Lopezes. In the hands of the oligarchy, elections do not offer a solution. All the candidates, regardless of party, belong to or represent the interests of the oligarchy. There is simply no way for the majority of Filipinos to win the elections.

Based on their statements, what the leaders of the Oakwood participants seek to uproot is not democracy but a corrupt and unjust status quo. They are focused on corruption in the military, seldom calling attention to corruption and injustice outside, simply because the military is their immediate world.

Can we blame the PMA for not teaching fiction—the fiction that Edsa I restored democracy and that through elections corruption and injustice can be eliminated?

Instead of condemning the PMA for teaching the revolting truth, which leads to coup attempts, Doronila should call on the perpetrators of conventional wisdom—the wielders of political and economic power in this country—to make elections a realistic option. Right now, elections are not.

—AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

HB 4110's double talk about abortion

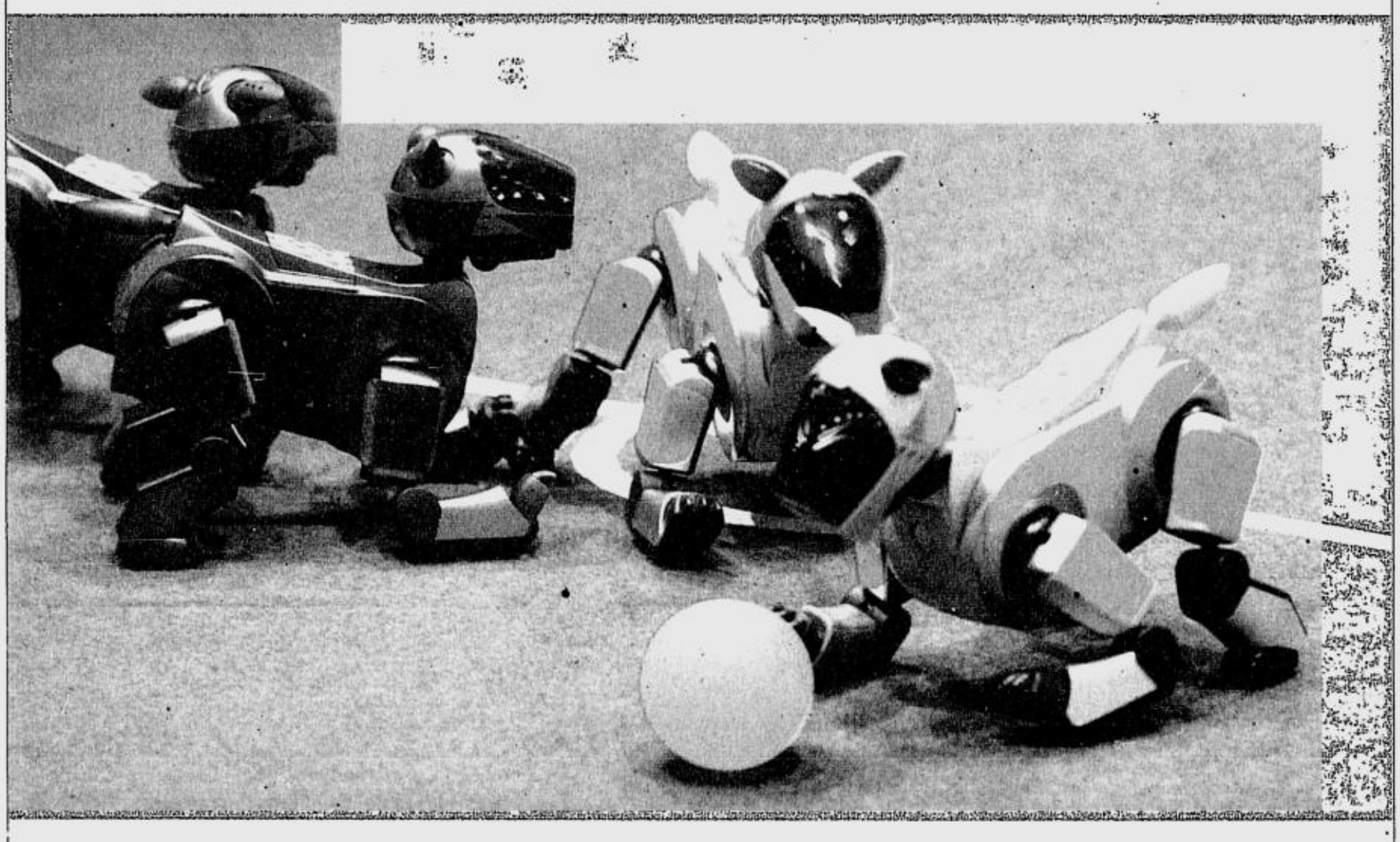
RINA Jimenez-David said in her column (PDI, 8/2/03) that a close reading of HB 4110 "will reveal that abortion is in no way being promoted or encouraged." She also mentioned that the bill seeks to help women avoid abortion by promoting unintended pregnancies.

The World Summit for Children last September 2001 defined "reproductive health services" as synonymous to having "access to abortion." So, it is alarming that the bill proposes in its section 5(d)5(a): "The removal of all legal and regulatory barriers to reproductive health care for adolescents." Take note of the word "adolescent." Section 7 of this bill even proposes punishment for anyone (parent, husband, wife, doctor and other allied health service) who interferes with one's reproductive rights.

The evilness of a thing lies in its deception. Let us unmask the real intention of HB 4110. I ask the proponents of this bill to define their terms with truthfulness and clarity. Until they do, I ask our legislators to please reject this bill.

—CLARABELLE P. FLORESCA, M.D. 61 Road 2, Pag-asa, Quezon City

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Thank you, Secretary

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes once asked for the entire acceptance speech of Albert Camus for the Nobel Peace Prize because he admired a phrase he used to pay tribute to those "who place themselves at the service not of those who make history but of those who suffer it."

I just want to say that this is one citizen (but I suspect among many thousands of others) who wants to thank Reyes for devoting 38 years of his life in the service of the ordinary and unsung Filipino soldier, and of his country. It is only appropriate that the phrase should apply to him.

People tend to forget the many years Reyes spent serving them with honor and distinction through the ranks as a professional soldier. Many only choose to remember him for the January 2001 momentous decision he and his fellow officers made, and remain critical of it. But I believe that history, or maybe in a small footnote since all of us are mere specks in its wake, will vindicate his decision, regardless of the separate issue of whether the succeeding administration did well or not.

Reyes may fade away as a soldier but there are many more years of service left in him to a country badly in need of people with courage and integrity. He is too good a man to spend his days contemplating the sunset. In the meantime, he should enjoy his family. They must be happiest for his stepping out of the limelight, and deserve his undivided attention, hopefully, not for very long.

—CHRISTIAN S. MONSOD, Makati City

The coup vs the state of corruption

STRANGE as it seems, I believe the success of the July 27 coup in Makati could have changed the course of our history for the better. Yes, I am a septuagenarian, a retired public servant but my integrity remained intact during my 41 years in government amid the escalating graft and corruption in the system.

• We "happy go lucky" Filipinos sway like bamboos, unbroken during storms or adversities. But we do react with vengeance as what happened after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. I was optimistic the Magdalo group would trigger another miracle; its action to reawaken the comatose consciences of top government, political, business and religious leaders who have mostly forgotten their moral and social obligations to the least fortunate of our society, the poorest of the poor.

We must accept that the root of most, if not all, of our national problems is "graft and corruption." Cutting off this worsening national illness can restore our sick country which is now in the intensive care unit. Passing new laws, conducting committee hearings in the Senate and Congress, creating executive commissions and task forces in solving each national problem merely dissipate efforts and funds, without tangible results. Charter change, computerization of our election processes and other palliatives cannot alter our slide to the bottom of the totem pole of developing countries.

Today, we are creating more high-profile scoundrels who are becoming more rapacious and daring while remaining scot-free. We are also creating our Filipino version of royalty. High, and even low, elective positions are now passed on from fathers to wives or sons, daughters, grandchildren, etc. Regretfully, nobody has risen to the stature of Ninoy Aquino who was much more willing to die for us. No one has the integrity and guts of President Ramon Magsaysay who was truly for the masses and placed behind bars a rich powerful provincial governor and a corrupt secretary of justice.

The Magdalo group could have effectively and indefinitely fortified the Oakwood building. President Macapagal would have not dared to dislodge the rebels by force, fully aware of the collateral damage in casualties and deaths of civilians and soldiers, plus the destruction of high-rise commercial buildings. Our nation and the rest of the world would have blamed her and the AFP generals if the catastrophe did happen. Unfortunately, the Magdalo officers blinked first in the gunfight with GMA at the Makati coral.

A successful coup and its aftershocks can create the massive sociopolitical earthquakes to awaken the sluggish but unrepentant minds of our leaders and populace. Justice with compassion must be assured for the Magdalo officers and soldiers, who I believe have the best intentions to reform our weak republic.

—GORGONIO M. CAING, 14 Fatima Village, Tacloban City

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Indon cleric sentenced to 4 years in prison

JAKARTA—An Indonesian court jailed Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir for four years on treason charges on Tuesday, but said there was not enough evidence to prove he led the radical Jemaah Islamiyah network blamed for bombings in Southeast Asia.

The sentence was less than the 15 years demanded by the prosecution in the case, which has been widely seen as a test of the willingness of the world's most populous Muslim nation to crack down on radical Islam.

The 65-year-old preacher and educator, who rejected all charges against him and earlier denounced the prosecutors as lackeys of the enemies of Islam, said he would appeal and urged his supporters to remain calm.

"I ask you to remain orderly, and be careful of provocateurs from America," Bashir said soon after sentencing.

His supporters shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest).

The panel of five judges ruled that Bashir had participated in acts of treason, but had not necessarily led a plot to topple Indonesia's secular government.

"Although the treason acts were proven, there has not been enough evidence to prove Abu Bakar Bashir was the leader of treason acts of trying to oust the lawful government," said presiding judge Muhammad Saleh.

"The panel has an opinion that Abu Bakar Bashir has not been proven as the leader of Jemaah Islamiyah," Saleh said earlier.

Officials link Jemaah Islamiyah with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, the group blamed by Washington for the Sept. 11, 2001 suicide hijacking attacks on the United States.

Investigators have also linked the group to last October's Bali bomb blast, which killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists, and a car bomb attack on a Jakarta hotel that killed 12 people on Aug. 5.

Bashir was charged with plotting to kill President Megawati Sukarnoputri when she was vice president, and overthrow the government. He was also charged in connection with church bombings that killed 19 people three years ago.

Defense lawyer Mahendradatta told reporters earlier the defense would appeal if the verdict went against them.

"If the verdict is guilty, we will definitely appeal because he is truly not guilty," he said. "Nothing has incriminated him. Too many things have been made up, so if we don't fight that would be really funny."

Supporters of Bashir crammed into the courtroom and milled around outside at the start of the day, chanting "Allahu Akbar." Police with water cannon stood by in case of trouble. One person in the crowd wore a Bin Laden T-shirt.

Bashir, wearing a white cap and shawl over a black jacket and sarong, urged his supporters before proceedings began to stay calm.

"Believe me, we will win, as long as we uphold God's law," he said into a microphone when the panel of judges allowed him to make a statement before taking his seat. "My message is stay calm, let us show our Muslim behavior." *Reuters*

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Iraq war erodes sympathy for America

LONDON—Victim turned bully?

Changed views of the United States two years after the Sept. 11 horrors may haunt Washington's quest for help in grappling with the bloody aftermath of the Iraq invasion.

The suicide hijack attacks on New York and Washington in 2001 produced a remarkable outpouring of sympathy for America.

Nations briefly set aside their quarrels with US foreign policy and President George W. Bush's go-it-alone approach, but sympathy soured as Bush declared a vague "war on terror" that he took to Afghanistan and then, far more controversially, to Iraq.

Emad Shahin, a political science professor in Cairo, said Egyptians questioned whether the human suffering of Sept. 11 justified the deaths of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis.

"After the war in Iraq, the United States looks to many like an occupying power in the region, which revives memories of European occupation in the early 20th century and further erodes any sympathy among people in the region," he said.

Disquiet among US allies in Europe centers on Washington's preference for preemptive action, its claim to military and economic primacy and its scorn for multilateral initiatives in areas including global warming and international justice.

Britain and some other countries backed the Iraq war despite domestic critics who doubted the gravity of the threat from Saddam Hussein's still-unfound weapons of mass destruction.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi may give Bush unstinting support, but American use of force has dissipated the post-Sept. 11 solidarity felt by almost all Italians.

"Today every war is possible, at a moment's notice and everywhere, and the political objectives behind the wars are getting more and more confused and difficult to grasp," said a recent editorial in Rome's independent La Stampa daily.

The United States had made clear it would act alone on Iraq if need be, putting the onus on the UN Security Council to "prove its relevance" by endorsing war. The council declined.

Iraq's postwar travail has refocused debate on the limits of US solo power, especially after last month's bombings of the Jordanian Embassy, UN headquarters and a Shiite shrine.

The Bush administration has now for the first time signaled interest in a UN-mandated multinational force.

But it will be loath to let despised opponents of the Iraq war, notably France, claim vindication for their views. *Reuters*

Thousands bury Shiite ayatollah in holy city

NAJAF, Iraq—Hundreds of thousands of mourners converged on the holy city of Najaf Tuesday for the funeral of a beloved Shiite cleric, as the moderate ayatollah's son warned that Iraq was entering a dangerous, new period.

Men clad in white robes and dark uniforms brandishing Kalashnikov rifles stood guard every five meters along the roof of Najaf's gold domed Imam Ali shrine ahead of the funeral. Black banners of mourning were draped across the mosque, which on Friday became the site of the country's bloodiest attack since the fall of Saddam Hussein, killing moderate cleric, Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim. There are varying accounts of how many other people died, ranging from more than 80 to more than 120.

"My believing brothers, the sons of Iraq, our injured Iraq is facing great and dangerous challenges in which one requires strength," the ayatollah's son Mohammed Hussein Mohammed Saeed al-Hakim said, as the funeral procession made one of its final stops before Najaf in the town of Hilla.

"I call on you to hold on to this unity and help each other... (through this) new period," he said.

Police on loud speakers implored the crowds jammed shoulder-to-shoulder in the streets surrounding the shrine to allow the truck carrying the ceremonial coffin to pass. Despite their efforts, the truck, was unable to make it to the entrance of the mosque.

Police stood with their weapons ready as gasoline powered pumps sprayed water on the mourners after some fainted from the heat. *AP*



PALESTINIANS look at a charred body inside a burning car following an Israeli air strike on Sept. 1. Three rockets fired by an Israeli Apache helicopter slammed into the car in central Gaza City, Palestinian security and medical sources said. AFP

Girl dies of injuries in Israel missile strike

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—An 11-year-old Palestinian girl died Tuesday of injuries sustained in an Israeli missile strike, one of six recent attacks on Hamas targets in what Israel's defense minister said is a fight "to the finish" against the Islamic militant group.

In the West Bank, leaders of the ruling Fatah movement met in another attempt to resolve a bitter power struggle between veteran leader Yasser Arafat and his prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas. The two men are no longer on speaking terms, Palestinian mediators said.

In Israel, a landmark report on Israel's treatment of its large Arab minority continued to dominate public debate Tuesday, a day after its release. The 831-page report concluded that successive Israeli governments discriminated against Arab citizens, and that the minority's growing frustration was a key trigger in October 2000 riots in which 13 Arabs were killed by police fire.

The report, issued by a commission of inquiry after three years of study, marked the first time in Israel's 55-year history that a state-appointed body criticized government policy toward the Arab minority in such a sweeping way. The report also said some Arab leaders in Israel encouraged violence, and that police used excessive force, including live fire and rubber-coated steel pellets, in quelling large crowds that took to the streets at the time in a show of support with the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

The 11-year-old, Sana Daour, became the third victim of that attack, which also killed two other bystanders, but missed its target, a Hamas fugitive.

Israel has carried out six missile attacks on Hamas targets since an Aug. 19 bus bombing in Jerusalem in which 21 people died. In all, 15 Palestinians, including four bystanders, have been killed in the missile strikes.

In a strike Monday, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a car carrying three Hamas militants, killing one and critically wounding a second, while the third got away. Twenty-five bystanders were also hurt. The dead man was identified as Khader Houssre, a 36-year-old Hamas member.

The missiles hit as the car drove along a crowded side street in downtown Gaza City. "I rushed outside, and saw a car like a ball of fire," said witness Salman Abu Nur, 42, a printer.

The militants in the car had been firing rockets at Israeli towns and Jewish settlements, Israeli Foreign Ministry official Gideon Meir said.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said in a statement released after the weekly Cabinet meeting Monday that Israel would fight "to the bitter end" against Hamas.

Israel's Army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, told the Cabinet he was prepared to launch a ground invasion into the Gaza Strip if necessary, according to a statement. *AP*

New bombing deals another blow to US efforts in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Another car bomb yesterday exploded outside the police headquarters in central Baghdad—wounding an unknown number of bystanders. Huge plumes of black smoke rose above the blast scene, where debris lay scattered around the headquarters. There were no fatalities.

Acting Baghdad police chief Hassan al-Obeidi has offices in the headquarters building and is closely associated with the US-led occupation authority.

The US military reported Tuesday that two US soldiers from a military police brigade were killed and one wounded a day earlier in a roadside bomb attack on their convoy south of Baghdad.

The deaths raised to 282 the number of American forces killed in the Iraq war. Of those deaths, 147 were killed since May 1 when US President George W. Bush declared an end to major fighting. Seventy soldiers have died in combat since Bush's declaration.

The explosion came as Iraq's 25-member Governing Council announced a Cabinet that mirrored exactly the council's ethnic and religious breakdown with 13 Shiites, five Sunni Arabs, five Kurds (also Sunnis), one ethnic Turk and an Assyrian Christian.

The information ministry, which became famous for its distorted accounts of the war, has been abolished.

The council, formed July 13, had been promising for weeks that it would name a government. It was unclear what delayed announcing the Cabinet, but several council members had spent much time after their appointment on trips throughout the world seeking recognition for the body as the legitimate representative of the Iraqi people. *AP*

WorldBriefs

Violence in Kashmir kills 13

SRINAGAR, India—Violence spiraled in Indian Kashmir as suspected rebels target an army convoy and partially blow up a bridge on a key highway. The attacks, as well as a gun battle between soldiers and militants, left 13 people dead and 21 wounded. *AP*

Afghan, US troops seize 3 Taliban hideouts

QALAT, Afghanistan—Afghan and US troops overran three suspected Taliban positions in the mountains of southern Afghanistan, while American bombing echoed through the rugged region, where hundreds of Taliban holdouts have been offering a week of fierce resistance. *AP*

Man scales Mount Fuji use only arms

TOKYO—An American mountaineer who lost the use of his legs in a car accident seven years ago resumed his slow but steady ascent of Mount Fuji, after a nearly disastrous first day on Japan's highest mountain. *AP*

Convicted spy returns to court

WASHINGTON—The last time Jonathan Pollard faced a judge in a Washington courtroom, he expected to learn he would spend several years in prison for spying for Israel. Instead, Pollard was sentenced to prison for life. Pollard is returning to that same courthouse as part of his long campaign to get his sentence reduced. *AP*

US lawmakers question Bush policies

WASHINGTON—Once wary of criticizing a popular wartime president's handling of Iraq, members of Congress are shedding their inhibitions, questioning whether President George W. Bush could get more help from other countries to secure and rebuild Iraq, whether he has enough US troops there and how much the war will cost in US lives and dollars. *AP*

Hopes of multiethnic Kosovo fade

GORAZDEVAC, Serbia-Montenegro— When Ivan Jovovic was fatally shot at a swimming hole, his younger brother was away at a camp where children from Kosovo's rival ethnic groups were learning to live together. Now their mother curses herself for ever encouraging tolerance in her sons. A Serb, she is certain that only ethnic Albanians would have opened fire with machine guns on 19-year-old Ivan. *AP*

Polisario Front frees 243 prisoners

RABAT, Morocco—A rebel group trying to win independence for the Western Sahara releases 243 Moroccan prisoners of war, the International Committee of the Red Cross said. The prisoners left from Tindouf, the home base for the Polisario Front in southwest Algeria. *AP*

Malaysians decry comments linking lipstick to rape

KUALA LUMPUR—Women's groups and the government on Tuesday criticized a leader of Malaysia's Islamic opposition for saying women should stop wearing lipstick and perfume to lower the risk of being raped.

Nik Abdul Aziz, the spiritual leader of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, was quoted by the Malay-language Mingguan Malaysia newspaper as saying that even women who wear Muslim headscarves can arouse men if they wear makeup and perfume too. The end result could be rape or molestation, the newspaper cited Nik Aziz as saying.

Anwar Bakri, a senior adviser to Nik Aziz, confirmed he made the comments, but said they were reported out of context.

Many women from Malaysia's Malay Muslim majority wear a moderate form of Islamic dress, such as a headscarf covering the hair but leaving the face exposed, and long sleeves.

Younger women in Malaysia, one of Southeast Asia's wealthiest and most developed countries, often wear the headscarf with modern clothes such as jeans as well as makeup and jewelry.

The fundamentalist Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party is the country's largest opposition group, controlling two of the 13 states, where it has restricted alcohol sales and segregated Muslim men and women at supermarket counters.

It has tried to introduce criminal laws including punishments such as amputation, but these have been blocked by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's national government.

Mahathir's United Malays National Organization and the Islamic party are in competition for the Malay Muslim vote, and faith and morals are core issues in the political fight.

In a weekend speech, Mahathir accused people who misinterpret Islam for their own ends—which he accuses the Islamic party of doing—of being traitors to the religion. He urged Malaysians to pursue secular achievements, such as Western-style education, as well as following their faith.

Ng Yen Yen, Malaysia's deputy finance minister, said Nik Aziz's comments were "ridiculous" and showed "how little he understands gender issues."

Rights group Sisters in Islam said Nik Aziz's comments seemed at odds with the Koran, which teaches that both men and women are responsible for guarding women's modesty.

"Should a man be so enamored of a woman's look (or smell), the Koran extols the lowering of gaze as a correct response," spokesperson Masjaliza Hamzah said.

Ivy Josiah, a leader of the Women's Aid Organization, said it appeared Nik Aziz believed—wrongly—that victims of rape were responsible for provoking it.

But senior adviser Anwar said Nik Aziz's comments were unfairly reported.

"He said that just like we carry money safely hidden away from the sight of thieves, practicing good dressing and moderation can avoid attracting sex maniacs," Anwar said. *AP*

Typhoon lashes Taiwan, leaves at least 2 dead

TAIPEI—Two people were killed and hundreds of thousands of homes across Taiwan suffered power blackouts Tuesday as gale-force winds and torrential rain from typhoon "Dujuan" battered the island, officials said.

The typhoon left a trail of destruction across Taiwan and wreaked havoc with air and rail traffic before the Central Weather Bureau lifted the typhoon warning at 11:30 a.m.

The first fatality was identified as 54-year-old Lin Tze-rong, who drowned Tuesday morning on the offshore island of Penghu, said the National Fire Agency, which coordinates national rescue missions.

The second victim was a 51-year-old janitor, Tang Teh-nan, who fell to his death while trying to close a window of his building in Sanchung city, Taipei county.

A 23-year-old student was also missing and feared dead after being swept away in flood water while conducting research in a mountainous area of eastern Taitung County.

The typhoon left 549,349 households in darkness at one point, with power supply to 110,000 homes still interrupted as of 4 p.m., according to the state-run Taiwan Power Co. (Taipower).

"Our workers worked very hard to restore power supply. But it took time to remove the uprooted trees which cut off electricity cables," a Taipower spokesperson said.

In central Nantou, rising floods washed away a bridge linking the remote Shuanglung Village, leaving some 900 residents stranded.

In Taitung county which bore the brunt of the typhoon, trees were uprooted and five passenger cars were submerged after floods burst an embankment. Two freighters were grounded near the Fukang fishing port. *AFP*



A WOMAN struggles to hold both her umbrella and her skirt blown off by strong winds as she gets off a taxi in Taipei. AP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Across the NATION

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Students decry drug tests, say problem's protected drug gangs

CALAMBA, Laguna—The random drug testing in schools took effect on Monday but a group of students said it was insulting and would not be the answer to the growing drug menace in the country.

The National Union of Students of the Philippines in Southern Tagalog (NUSP-ST) said they are rejecting this anti-drug measure of the government because it will be just like punishing victims instead of going after drug traders.

"The government should instead stop the proliferation of illegal drugs by arresting, prosecuting and punishing big-time drug pushers, drug lords and their protectors in the government," said NUSP-ST secretary general Alfie Pulumbarit.

He said his group was willing to join the battle against the illegal trade and use of drugs.

He quoted police data confirming the presence of 11 transnational and 215 local drug syndicates in the country, most of which get the protection of law enforcement and other government officials.

Pulumbarit also said drug testing in schools could be abused by businessmen and bureaucrats through contracts with monopoly drug testing centers and companies.

While the government claims that the drug test will be shouldered by the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, Pulumbarit said this was no assurance that there would be no additional increase in miscellaneous fees paid by students.

He also said the measure may be arbitrarily used against students who have issues against their school administration.

Southern Tagalog ranks second to the National Capital Region in the number of college enrollees, with more than 200,000 youths enrolled in college. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Reds call for protests to oust Gloria, install Tito

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines called for massive demonstrations to remove President Macapagal-Arroyo from office and make Vice President Teofisto Guingona the head of a caretaker government until after the elections of next year.

"Given the concrete revelations with solid damning evidence of large-scale systematic corruption and money laundering of the Arroyos, they should be immediately booted out of Malacañang," communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a statement released by the Party Information Bureau yesterday.

He added: "As the constitutional successor, Vice President Teofisto Guingona can right away assume the presidency by leading a caretaker government to immediately reverse the wrongdoings of Arroyo and proceed with the next elections."

Rosal said that as the massive protests are going on, the New People's Army will intensify tactical offensives against government forces to capture arms and to further weaken the "Macapagal-Arroyo regime and hasten its downfall."

The CPP spokesman said a caretaker government without Arroyo could be better trusted with an impartial inquiry into the Arroyos' alleged big-time corruption than an administration with the subject of the inquiry remaining as president.

He said the mass movement should also press for an impartial inquiry into the cases of corruption involving the Arroyos, including Ignacio Arroyo, "who is obviously covering up for his brother and sister-in-law."

"But Gloria should first resign or else be removed from the presidency, if the inquiry is to be impartial at all," he said.

Rosal said the cases of corruption being exposed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the media and other sectors are but the latest in the growing list of reasons why the Arroyo administration should immediately be overthrown by the people.

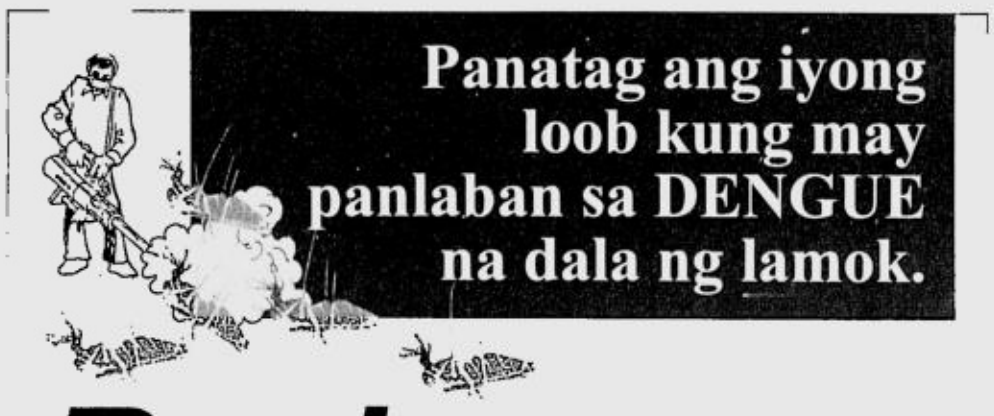
He described the Macapagal-Arroyo administration as "tottering more than ever on the sheer weight of the Arroyos' big-time corruption."

In an earlier statement, Rosal enumerated at least 10 reasons why the people should act to immediately end the Macapagal administration citing among others "large-scale corruption, out-and-out puppetry to the US, and her all-out war of terrorism, including the ordering of bombings in Davao and elsewhere."

Rosal said a coalition of anti-Arroyo and anti-corruption forces should be formed to coordinate the mass demonstrations, which he said can lead to another uprising similar to that which toppled Marcos and Estrada.

"Militant patriotic and democratic forces should be at the core of such a front in order to be able to influence more substantive changes as well as unite the broadest possible forces," he said.

With Guingona as the interim president, Rosal said the vice president can repeal the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement, put an end to the Balikatan war games, withdraw the secret immunity agreement with the US against prosecution of US forces in the International Criminal Court, stop Charter change and end increasing US military intervention in the Philippines.



Gloria OKs lahar area survey to pave way for residents' return

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Plans of Central Luzon residents displaced by Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions and succeeding lahar flows to return to their villages are being supported by the government through a cadastral survey, President Macapagal-Arroyo said.

"One of the problems that prevent the people from returning to their own home barangays even now that they are safe is that the landscape has changed. There are rivers where there were none and there are no more rivers where there used to be so that not everybody knows where his land really is located," the President said.

"One of the things we are doing is to spend on the cadastral survey so that everyone can know where he can go back home to," Ms Macapagal told some 300 people during the centenary rites for this former American military base on Sept. 1.

The survey will seek to re-establish territorial boundaries, including location of private and public lands.

Pinatubo fury

Mt. Pinatubo spewed out an estimated seven billion cubic meters of volcanic ash and sand. Strong rains had washed down between 2.2 and 2.5 billion cubic meters from the slopes to the rivers and down to the lowlands, reports from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

Phivolcs said lahar flows had claimed more than 1,000 villages in three Central Luzon provinces at the foothills of the volcano.

In Bacolor town, many residents failed to salvage personal belongings, including land titles, real property declaration or tax receipts, documents needed to prove their ownership of lots in the town.

In several towns in Pampanga, the President's home province, residents had installed temporary markers on their plots after every major lahar flows, using as references burned trees, remnants of buried structures and distance from established transportation routes.

Aetas in the uplands of Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales also used the sun and moon as guides to where they used to live before the eruption and lahar all but obliterated their communities.

Ms Macapagal did not say how many families are planning to return to their old villages and if those planning to return are coming from 16 resettlement.

Settlement sites where the government had transferred some 54,000 families.

Two years ago, she had ordered the distribution of land titles and home lots without cost to legitimate settlers.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue in June agreed to exempt the settlers from paying a total of P24 million in capital gains tax or 6 percent of some P400 million in estimated land value.

The need for a cadastral survey was first proposed by Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, who cited the resulting land disputes after the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions in 1991 as the major reason a cadastral survey was needed.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had asked for an initial budget of P91 million to conduct the cadastral survey.

Kids shocked by NPA raid in Naga City

NAGA CITY—Two jeeps filled with suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels swooped down yesterday on a police post in Barangay Carolina here about 11:15 a.m., killing a policeman and traumatizing schoolchildren.

The rebels surrounded and overpowered three policemen and threw a grenade, which destroyed the wall of the post, 6 km from the city's business district.

SPO2 Placido Morales died not from a bullet wound but from a hard object that fell on him. The rebels cornered him after the wall fell down.

Mayor Jesse Robredo said the attack traumatized the pupils of a nearby school. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Another radioman slain in Agusan

BUTUAN CITY—Police said it was having difficulty going after those behind the Aug. 20 killing of a radio reporter in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga Region police chief, said they have no witnesses in the killing of Rico Ramirez, a reporter of radio station dxSF.

Ramirez was on his way home in Barangay San Isidro when a man shot him.

The victim, known for his crusade against corruption and wrongdoings among local politicians, was hit in the nape.

"No one witnessed the shooting because the area was dark," Olario said.

The radioman's death, the first in the Caraga Region, has drawn massive condemnation from media groups, calling it an assault against press freedom.

Celso Licup, president of the Caraga Philippine National Police Press Corps, urged the police to fast track its investigation and bring the perpetrators to court.

"Justice must be served," Licup said.

Licup also expressed alarm that Ramirez's killing would only end up "just like unresolved harassments" on media personalities.

Early this year, Arvin Malasa, manager of the Radio-Natin in Tandag, Surigao del Sur, survived an ambush by motorcycle-riding gunmen.

Olario said his men were looking into the role of personalities who might have been irked by Ramirez's reports and commentaries.

"We are investigating (the) usual suspects of harassments against media personalities," Olario said.

Media groups have documented more than 40 journalists killed since 1986, not one of them solved. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that as per available records from the PCSO Treasury Department for the period covered February 01, 2001 to February 28,2003, there was no Land Bank check no. 061283 issued in the name of Mr. Jose Pidal or any other name in the amount of ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P1,350,000.00).

Verification of available records revealed that LBP Check No. 061283 correspond to a check issued on February 26, 2001 payable to MR. FORTUNATO TIRATIRA in the amount of TWENTY THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P23,000.00) representing payment for a five digit winning prizes in 6/45 lotto game.

Further verification made disclosed that another check correspond to a PNB Check No. 061283 dated November 08,2002 was issued to MS. LEONORA VIDANES in the amount of FORTY THOUSAND PESOS (P40,000.00) as financial/medical assistance.

Finally, verification of payment made on February 28,2003 or any other dated for that matter, revealed that no payment in any form was paid under the name of Jose Pidal.

This certification is issued for whatever legal purpose it may serve.

Issued this 1st day of September 2003.

BENIGNO B. AGUAS
Manager, Budget and Accounting Dept.

GLORIA F. ARAULLO
Manager, Treasury Department

Noted:
MA. LIVIA S. DE LEON

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Clark Field: A tribute to Filipinos' resiliency to rise above adversities

By Tonette Orejas
Clark Special Economic Zone

SUDDENLY, there was a Sept. 1 to deal with in Clark. For many who are used to associating the former American military base with July 4 (not purely for the Fil-Am Friendship Day but more for the once-a-year sale of apples, chocolates and "blue seal" cigarettes), smuggled "stateside" PX items, noisy aircraft and the perennial checkpoint, Sept. 1 is an obscure date.

Until Monday, though, the hardly known date was resurrected from ambiguity and given national attention to mark the centenary of Clark.

Sept. 1 a hundred years ago was when US President Theodore Roosevelt issued an executive order designating as a military reservation the 3,116 hectares of land that the 5th Cavalry Regiment occupied at Sitio Mangga, Sapang Bato in Kuliat (now Angeles City).

In the next decades, Fort Stotsenburg, as it was then called, expanded to include Clark Field with a military reservation spanning 63,214 ha that straddled nearby Tarlac and the Zambales mountain range.

The Clark centennial committee—comprising of Clark Development Corp. officials, local historians, tourism leaders and several private individuals—did not only memorialize the date. If the reconstructed accounts in the centennial literature were the gauge, the committee also dug up history and gave an authentic appraisal of Clark's past without skipping the numerous ironies.

"(It was) a witness to war's infamy, nature's wrath and political upheavals," CDC president Emmanuel Angeles said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was more forthright, calling Clark then a "symbol of US military presence in Asia" and now a "showcase of Philippine economy."

The centennial event, complete with the installation of markers and monuments, was actually a rite of telling Clark's history through the eyes of Filipinos. This was important because the government had reclaimed Clark, as well as the former Subic Naval Base in Zambales and Camp John Hay in Baguio City 12 years ago, through the Senate's rejection of the Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement.

Clark today is not only portrayed as a special economic zone the Filipinos had built from what the American military had left behind and from what the Mt. Pinatubo eruption had spared. It is, as officials put it, a living tribute to the resiliency of residents to rise above the adversities, a link and a gateway to global trade, and a huge resource that would really stir the economic growth of Central and Northern Luzon.

Aerotropolis or an airport-driven economic master plan, tandem with Subic to complete the air-sea complex, is Clark's direction for the major leap to progress, Clark officials said.

Clark was also made into a large tourism estate with 19 historical sites that tell of uneventful and, at times, heroic chapters in Philippine history. That includes the Salakot, which resembles a farmer's hat and where protests had been held for decades to assert Philippine sovereignty.

Even as the CDC affirmed its commitment to the communities, the problems that the base had engendered—environmental pollutants, poverty among original Aeta inhabitants, land disputes, prostitution and the neglect of Amerasian children—continue to demand more will and resources from the body overseeing Clark.



MT. PINATUBO vomits a sulpuric ash cloud while Manila celebrates Philippine Independence Day on June 12, 1991. This photo, taken from the book "Mt. Pinatubo 500 Years After," shows two US servicemen at Clark Air Base using handkerchiefs to protect themselves from the toxic fumes.

When 'abong' means more than little home

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

ABONG" means little home in Ilocano and in Kankanaey. It is also the name given to the quarters of the Japanese-Filipino Association of Northern Luzon, as well as a charming film made by Japanese Koji Imaizumi.

Don't recall your Kurosawa and Shintaro, Imaizumi is an amateur auteur in the mode of Kidlat Tahimik. Imaizumi's "Abong," which is starting its Cordillera run this week, is that movie that is both childlike and profound. It tackles great themes while trying to keep its cost at the minimum.

"Abong" revolves around Lamot, a Japanese-Filipino also known as Hapon (played by Joel Torre) from Lubong Norte (Northern World, a fictitious place but set in Hapao, Ifugao), who is a jeepney driver (shades of Tahimik's "Mababangong Bangungot") in Baguio City. His wife left for abroad and Lamot was set to take care of their three children in Lubong Norte.

"In the whole story, the movie seeks a mother," Imaizumi said. In Lubong Norte, Lamot and his children were forced back in a world without electricity and Big Religion.

He was forced to make peace with his Japanese and Igorot past. In the end, the mother returns but it is Lamot's turn to go to Japan to work.

This is no OWWA (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration) propaganda movie. By confronting his heritage, the movie made it a point that Lamot's seeking a job in Japan is a sign of surrender, not hope.

Imaizumi came to the Philippines 12 years ago and was enamored with the Igorot culture. While here, he discovered that Japanese workers came to Baguio 100 years ago to build Kennon Road and some decided to migrate to the city. He met the people in Abong (the organization) and decided to come out with a movie for them.

7 years

With subsidies worth P1.6 million from the Japan Foundation and National Commission for Culture and the Arts, a loan of P1.12 million from friends and P5.28 million from the mortgage of his house in Tokyo, Imaizumi began his movie in 1996. It took him seven years to finish the movie. "I have three years to pay my debts," he said.

Should Torre include "Abong" in his CV? He should because eventually this movie would outlast most of his other movies.

Also appearing in the movie are Connie Chua, Joey Ayala, Kidlat Tahimik, Kawayan de Guia (Tahimik's six-foot Caucasian-looking son trying to fit in as a Kiangan whose most memorable line is "shot-shot"), Nanding Josef, Rene Aquitania, Mauricio Domogan (yes, the long-time Baguio mayor and now congressman), Banawe Miclat, Karlo Altamonte and a lot of other people.

Boy Yñiquez is the cinematographer, while Ayala is the musical director.

Helping Imaizumi in the script is Christina Segnaken, who admitted to not liking movies in the first place but was persuaded by Imaizumi's enthusiasm.

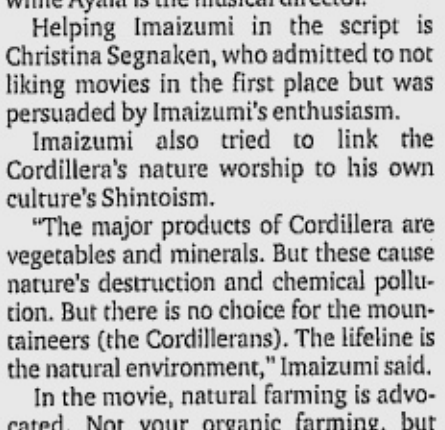
Imaizumi also tried to link the Cordillera's nature worship to his own culture's Shintoism.

"The major products of Cordillera are vegetables and minerals. But these cause nature's destruction and chemical pollution. But there is no choice for the mountaineers (the Cordillerans). The lifeline is the natural environment," Imaizumi said.

In the movie, natural farming is advocated. Not your organic farming, but farming where you just scatter the seeds encased in clay balls and let them grow without your assistance.

This was advocated by 1988 Magsaysay Awardee Masanobu Fukuoka, who visited Baguio while Imaizumi was working on his movie.

In essence that is what Imaizumi had done with "Abong"—just shoot away. In the end, you reap more than what you expect.



FILMMAKER Kidlat Tahimik (left) shares his thoughts with Japanese director Koji Imaizumi. PHOTO BY EV ESPIRITU

Holy mix: Prayers, herbs, acupuncture and massage

By Maurice Malanes
Santiago City

HERBAL medicines, acupuncture and *tuina* or Chinese massage mix well with prayers in an Igorot migrant community of Episcopalian parishioners in Santiago City.

"We can worship and praise God better if we are healthy and sound so we must work for our wholeness," Fr. Clarence Olat told members of the St. Mark's Parish in Barangay Batal during a recent Sunday homily. "How can we pray and worship well if we are sickly?"

The homily was the priest's way of explaining the rationale behind the Episcopal diocese of Santiago's health program, which includes alternative means such as tapping local herbal medicines, acupuncture and *tuina*.

After the Mass, more than 30 parishioners, mostly migrant farmer-entrepreneurs from Mt. Province, were treated of various ailments by activating their *chi* or life forces through acupuncture needles.

After 30 minutes under the thread-like needles, some church members were given another 30 minutes of Chinese massage from head to the toes. Children and elders, who had coughs and colds, were given alternative medicines extracted and processed from herbs and plants, such as *lagundi, sambong* and *pansit-pansitan*.

And the beauty of it all was that the patients were treated by lay people from the various parishes of the diocese who trained on alternative medical skills.

The instant medical mission was part of the launching program of the Santiago diocese's first Sistema ti Acupuncture, Panag-ilot, Adal ken Lunas (Sapal or the system of Acupuncture, Massage, Health Education and Treatment) in Barangay Batal on Aug. 10.

The Sapal, a clinic and pharmacy of indigenous and local herbal medicines, will be replicated in remote parishes and mission stations of the diocese in Isabela, Aurora, Quirino and parts of Mt. Province.

Trained community-based paramedics and health volunteers will help manage it. They were trained by the Philippine Center for Traditional Asian Medicine (PCTAM), a Metro Manila-based non-government health organization supported by the Peace and Equity Foundation and the World Council of Churches, a global body of Protestant churches.

Bishop Alexander Wandag said his diocese tapped PCTAM to train community-based paramedics and to help establish Sapal.

"If each household or neighborhood has a trained health volunteer or paramedic and a *botika* (drugstore) of medicinal herbs, there is no need for people to run to the hospital," said Wandag, citing how villagers had to walk for hours to reach the nearest clinic or hospital.

Breaking myths

Under their partnership, the Episcopal diocese of Santiago and the PCTAM seek to break the pill-for-every-ill myth, which, they said, serve well the interests of giant drug firms.

Parishioners have yet to appreciate that "the cure for a child's fever may just be a simple massage and the treatment for a stomach disorder is a common herb or weed in an upland family's backyard," said Andrea Abellon, the diocesan social ministry coordinator.

The diocese and the PCTAM have thus embarked on a community-based health program, which includes health education for preventive health and "how to harness local and indigenous herbs so people need not rely on costly medicines," said Dr. Vicky Clamor, PCTAM executive director.

All these need skills and technical expertise, which, Clamor said, the PCTAM seeks to transfer to parishioners of the diocese.

The PCTAM's training module for health volunteers includes basic knowledge on how to diagnose a patient and dispense the correct drugs and how to manage a community pharmacy.

Besides acupuncture and *tuina*, trainees also learn the efficacy and toxicity of medicinal plants and how to prepare medicines from plants in the form of syrup, ointment, tincture, decoction, and capsule or tablet.

During the Sapal launching, the first batch of 15 trainees, some of them ordinary farmers, displayed "outputs" from their training, which included cough syrup from *lagundi*, ointment from *kalachuchi* and *akapulko*, ginger tea, medicinal soap from guava and aloe vera, and tincture from garlic.

One trained health volunteer is Rosa Balalong, a 54-year-old farmer-housewife who has begun to heal ailing fellow members at the St. Francis Parish in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

"Many now come to me, complaining of lower-back pains, rheumatism and other body pains related to heavy farm work so I treat them with acupuncture and *tuina*," she said.

The diocese's community-based health program, said Wandag, is in tune with Jesus' own example as a healer during his time.

"This is also our way of ministering to the needs of our members whose communities are hardly serviced by the health department," he said.



BAGUIO DAY PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Ibaloi retirees transform the streets of Baguio City into a stage for their tribal dance as the city celebrated its 94th Charter Day on Monday.

Gov tells ATO execs to explain grenade found in office

By Kathy Navarro and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Gov. Pablo Garcia has asked Air Transportation Office (ATO) officials to explain how a grenade ended up in one of their offices, which exploded and killed an ATO employee on Saturday.

The governor, a member of the board of directors of the Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA), said he could not help but wonder why a grenade was in a civilian office such as ATO.

He said he would wait for the results of the investigation although he urged airport officials to implement tight security measures at the airport perimeter.

Ceasar Simeon, 54 and ATO technician, was killed when the grenade exploded inside the ATO radar building inside the compound of the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

The grenade explosion did not damage the radar facility or disrupt airport operations.

But police investigators found several M-16 bullets and uniforms of the Philippine Air Force inside Simeon's office.

The ATO radar compound is 2.5 kilometers away from the airport passenger terminal. But the building is close to the approach of the airport's main runway.

Supt. Edwin Diocos, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group director in Central Visayas, said he noted lapses in security at the vital facility.

"We are not linking this to a terrorist plot. We are just wondering why there were M-16 bullets and Air Force uniforms there," Diocos added.

But airport officials said airport security was very tight.

If there was any lapse in the airport's security, they said, it happened "not in our watch."

LOSS OF INVESTMENTS

'Pyramid' victims seek help

BACOLOD CITY—Negrenses who claimed to have been gypped by two pyramiding firms said they will ask Sen. Robert Jaworski, chair of the Senate committee on trade and commerce, to help them recover whatever amount they can from the P63.4 million in investments they had placed in those companies.

"We are alarmed by the deafening silence of Malacañang in these scams, which is said to involve P120 billion, which is clearly more than what is involved in the celebrated Estrada plunder cases," they said in a letter to Jaworski.

The letter was so far signed by 42 persons who said they were among the 61 investors of Mateo International Management Group Holdings Co. Ltd. (MMG) and 79 investors of Tibayan Group Investment Co. (TGIC) in Bacolod City and Negros Occidental.

These investors of MMG and TGIC had filed cases early this year with the local prosecutor's office to enforce their claims for P63,408,271.87 in total investments made to the two companies.

More victims

Lawyer Joselle Batata-Sigue, legal counsel of the claimants, said more victims of the two firms are expected to sign the letter to Jaworski. It will be sent within this week to the senator.

"Many of us are retired and retrenched employees, ordinary and middle class businessmen, who rely on the money we earn daily and whatever savings we have set aside. Our investments with MMG and Tibayan are practically the only money we got since many of us can no longer work productively for reasons of advanced age and lack of business opportunities," they said in their letter.

The letter senders said that they decided to write to Jaworski because they saw on television, heard over the radio and read in the newspapers about his earnest efforts to investigate the persons involved in perpetuating so-called pyramiding scams, such as Rose Baladjay of Multitel and Ervin Mateo of MMG.

At large

They said they felt sad, though, that the man behind TGIC, Jesus Tibayan, has remained at large.

The letter senders said that while they understood that the investigation initiated by Jaworski's committee is only in aid of legislation; "we cannot help but pin our hopes upon the Senate to help us recover what seems to be irrevocable losses that we suffered in the hands of these unscrupulous and unlawful elements."

They also stressed the need for laws to prevent "the proliferation of these pyramiding and Ponzi schemes especially outside Metro Manila, which, they said, have serve as havens for MMG and TGIC's unmonitored, unbridled, and ruthless expansion" that have victimized them. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Snipers sent to help hunt Sayyaf bandits

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A team of snipers from the elite Scout Rangers was sent to Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat in an effort to expedite the capture of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani.

A press release from the Office of Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said the snipers were deployed to the area following a request from local residents for the Army to immediately flush out Abu Sayyaf bandits holed up in the area.

On July 5, about 55 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Janjalani reportedly landed in Barangay Libua in Palimbang town. There, the Abu Sayyaf leader was met by Alo Binago, leader of Abu Sufia, a local kidnapping gang.

Mayor Labualas Mamansual told reporters that Palimbang town residents were enraged by the arrival of Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Mamansual claimed that residents expressed apprehension that innocent civilians might get caught in a crossfire when government soldiers and the bandits clash.

The mayor deployed spotters and guides to help the military track down the bandits.

More than a hundred families have been displaced due to massive military operations in the hinterlands of Palimbang.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Damalerio mom hopeful for justice

By Chito Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

CLARIN, Bohol—The mother of slain journalist Edgar Damalerio remained hopeful that justice would be obtained for the murder of her son, even if she was not optimistic that it could be found in the courts of the land.

Jesusita Palomeras-Damalerio said that she no longer has any hope that her son's assailant, police officer Guillermo Wapile, would still be caught but she believed that justice would still be achieved.

"It is my prayer that we will obtain justice . . . divine justice," said Jesusita.

Damalerio was gunned down in cold blood in Pagadian City more than a year ago but the killing has remained unsolved.

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 478 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

ROUNDUP

Road cementing

DUMAGUETE CITY—The City Engineer's Office is implementing more than P4 million worth of road cementing project this month. This will bring to more than P20 million the total amount spent by the city for road concreting since January. The project funds come from the city's 20 percent Economic Development Fund. City Engineer Edwin Quirit said his office will cement portions of the San Juan, Locsin and Colon Streets starting September. He said a similar project was ongoing in Barangays Taclobo, Balugo and Banilad. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Agroforestry projects

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Department of Energy is allocating some P13 million to implement agroforestry projects in Tamlang Valley, an erstwhile war zone. The Negros Oriental provincial government is now looking at the area as a showcase of development in the province. The estimated 16,000-hectare valley is nestled in the hinterland areas of the towns of Sta. Catalina, Valencia, Sibulan and Siaton. Of the amount, P4 million is intended to bring electricity to the valley. The remaining amount is set aside for tree-planting and other related projects. The provincial government has so far spent some P25 million for the opening and rehabilitation of roads going to the valley indicating its seriousness in developing the area. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Double parricide

SIGMA, Capiz—Double parricide charges were filed against a farmer for allegedly hacking to death his wife and year-old daughter inside their house in Barangay Acbo on Aug. 24. The case against Tito Cabantud, 34, was filed before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court for Sigma-Sapian-Jamindan. His wife Marilyn, 34, suffered 13 stab wounds in different parts of the body. His daughter Michelle was hacked in the head and thighs. Ten-year-old Melanie said her parents had a fight after her father accused her mother of having an affair. Without any provocation, the father took a bolo and hacked Michelle. PO1 Salvador Maslog Jr., officer-on-case, said the suspect Cabantud had a "history of mental disturbance."
Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Student rape-slay

SAN JOSE, Occidental Mindoro—Inmates at the Magbay provincial jail in this town was tagged as the culprits in the rape-slaying of a student in Barangay Central. Elizabeth Albacino, 16, was found dead after she was beaten and raped on Aug. 15. A document signed by barangay residents pointed to inmates Adel Mateo alias Cellphone, Arnel Eusebio alias Long Hair and Eddie Macula alias Tanda, as the suspects. The document said the residents had been seeing the inmates working in the farm of jail guard Jojo Maderazo for about a year. Occidental Mindoro Gov. Jose Villarosa said he had ordered the suspension of Maderazo while investigation is going on. Residents held a prayer-rally last week in the town plaza to seek justice for Albacino.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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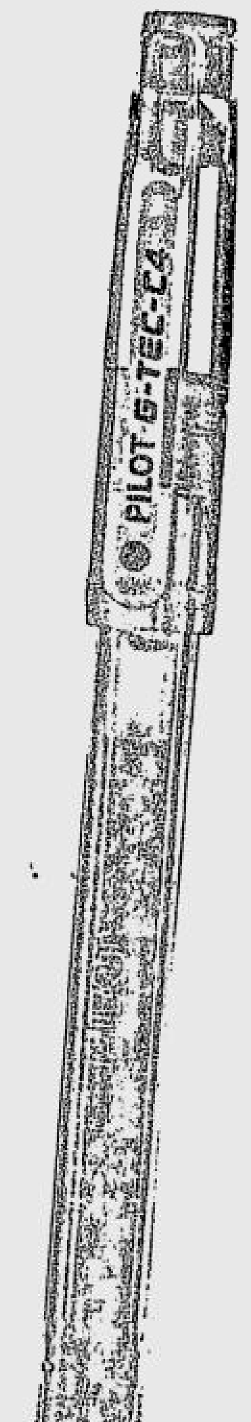
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'My brother is the rich Arroyo,' First Gentleman claims

From page A1

accounts and pieces of property that Sen. Panfilo Lacson had accused him of owning.

He went on to say that Ignacio, who was not present at yesterday's first Senate hearing on corruption charges against the First Gentleman, had told him about the latter's supposed ownership of a bank account under the name Jose Pidal.

The Senate committees on public accountability, constitutional amendments and banks are to call Ignacio Arroyo to the next hearing set next week.

At yesterday's hearing, Arroyo told senators that he was not Jose Pidal, the man that Lacson claimed to be the First Gentleman and the owner of the multimillion-peso bank accounts.

Under questioning by Senate President Franklin Drilon, Arroyo said Ignacio had told him about the Pidal account in 1997 or 1998—or during the election campaign—but "didn't tell me when he opened it."

He said Ignacio solicited campaign funds as an officer of the Lakas party.

Asked by Sen. Edgardo Angara about his brother's financial standing, Arroyo repeatedly said Ignacio was the best person to answer the question.

But he also said Ignacio was an *hacendero* and into sugar farming, owned a 250-hectare land in Isabela, and was "maybe into trading and stocks."

Arroyo said Ignacio also held office at the LTA building in Makati City, and "saw nothing wrong with it."

The Tohs' lawyer

On Victoria Toh, Thomas Toh and Kelvin Tan—who, Lacson had said, Arroyo was using as cover for his secret bank accounts—the First Gentleman said they were his friends and clients.

"I represented them, even their father, in a case against a bank when I was still practicing law," said Arroyo, a lawyer.

He said the Tohs were currently in Canada, with Victoria there for the past two months now.

Asked about his relationship with former Public Estates Authority Chair Ernesto Villareal and other people said to be frequent visitors to his office, Arroyo said they were friends and had worked together.

He said he had an account at the Union Bank on Perea Street in Makati, and some years ago an account, now closed, at the Bank of the Philippine Islands. He said he had no account at the International Exchange Bank.

He also denied that Kelvin Tan held office at the LTA building, and said he was not aware that Tan's bank statements were being sent there.

US property

Arroyo said the two pieces of property in California that were registered under his name and President Macapagal-Arroyo were bought for Ignacio.

He refused to answer questions on these pieces of property, saying that Ignacio could best supply the answers or that he couldn't recall details of the 1992 purchase.

He also said Ignacio could answer questions on the identity of a Lita Bato, who, Angara wanted to know, was the person who had brokered the purchase.

At one point, Arroyo described as "unfair and uncalled for" Angara's statements to him.

Arroyo had repeatedly dared Lacson to file a case against him, prompting Angara to say that "when you're hiding something, you always say 'Sue me.'"

Arroyo said Ignacio would allow him and his family to stay at one of the California properties, a condominium unit, whenever they were there.

He said he was certain that his brother would report his overseas income and pay his taxes there.

On two occasions, Arroyo snapped at senators who were pressing him for information.

On his own financial standing, he said that he had a "passing income," and that this was all disclosed in his joint Statement of Assets and Liabilities with the President.

He said he had no deposits in the United States, and that he has not holding any position with the LTA Corp. and the Lualhati Foundation.

Arroyo said he had known Lacson's erstwhile star witness, Eugenio Mahusay Jr., for some time.

He said Mahusay used to be a messenger in his office with whom he had a "conflict" before the latter left his employ.

Senate show . . .

From page A1

round of questions for Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay Jr. by mistakenly calling the star witness "Mawanay," after controversial informant Ador Mawanay.

The packed Senate hall erupted in laughter.

Mawanay had testified about Lacson's alleged criminal activities, but later retracted and claimed he was used by the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Lacson said it was just a slip of the tongue. *"Di ko sinasadya,* Udong, *walang malisya* (I did not mean that, I had no ill intentions.)"

"That's OK. I'm also asking you to forgive me," Mahusay replied in Filipino.

Several times Mahusay asked forgiveness from both Arroyo and Lacson.

"Sa kagustuhan ko na mapadiin at masira si Ginoong Arroyo kaya ko po napirmahan yon (I signed the first affidavit because I wanted to pin down and ruin Mr. Arroyo)," he said.

Arroyo was three seats away from him when he said that.

"I would like to ask Senator Lacson to forgive me because I used him in my lies," Mahusay said grimly, as Lacson laughed.

Lewd photos?

Lacson claimed Mahusay also gave him "lewd" photos of Arroyo, the witness' former employer.

Lacson showed Mahusay and his lawyer at least two photos and three letters that Mahusay supposedly gave him.

Lacson asked the witness to approach him, saying he could not show the photos to the media.

"*Medyo mahalay kasi* (They're quite lewd)," he said.

Unable to resist his curiosity, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon went over to Lacson to look at the pictures.

But afterwards he refused to describe what he saw.

Lacson produced the pictures after Mahusay claimed that the only documents he showed Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Lacson were a 2001 bank statement of Vicky Toh's and a picture of Arroyo and Toh.

He said all the other documents included in his July 21 affidavit were provided by businessman Alex Carlos.

Mahusay retracted his first affidavit, dated July 21, yesterday.

He said parts of that were only a product of his imagination, and claimed the affidavit was embellished by Lacson's camp.

But Pimentel whipped up an undated but signed affidavit of Mahusay's whose contents—in English—were similar to the July 21 affidavit (which was in Filipino).

Mahusay admitted the undated affidavit was his, but pointed out that it was not notarized.

Opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta started one round of questions by all but calling Mahusay a liar.

"Ikaw ba talaga ay isang sinungaling na tao? ... Di ka ba natatakot sa Diyos (Are you a liar? Don't you afraid of God?)," she asked.

"No, I also pray, and I used to be an altar boy," Mahusay replied in Filipino, to the amusement of the gallery.

Picking up from Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto's questioning, Oreta asked Mahusay whether it was true he had told Lacson's lawyers that he has a child by a certain Greta Ramos.

Mahusay only expressed surprise, claiming innocence.

Jaworski's clowns

Near the end of the almost day-long hearing, administration Sen. Robert Jaworski flared up, saying he was fed up with people like Mahusay who flip-flop on their statements.

"We have so many clowns here in the Senate," he declared.

"It's high time these people are punished. Pity our poor country," he added, in a mix of English and Filipino.

Sen. Luisa Ejercito Estrada gave some of her question time to Lacson.

She used part of it to point out that Mahusay and Toh had used the presidential yacht Ang Pangulo without the President. "You know, the use of that ship without the President on board is illegal. It's costly," she explained.

Her husband, deposed President Joseph Estrada, was reported to conduct all-night mahjong sessions with his "midnight Cabinet" in the yacht. The yacht had been refurbished, reportedly by Estrada's friends.

Lawmaker raps Ping . . .

From page A1

true, that's a personal problem that Mike has to settle with his wife," Gonzalez said.

Opposition congressmen, however, are saying that Arroyo's brother, Ignacio Arroyo Jr., could be held liable for grand-scale tax evasion, violation of Securities and Exchange Commission and Central Bank laws, graft and corruption and other laws applicable to maintaining fictitious bank accounts. They said he should be charged accordingly in courts.

They egged Ignacio to claim the P1-million reward they had offered for anyone who would admit that he is Jose Pidal so he could use the money when he defends himself before the courts.

"If he is indeed the mysterious millionaire-resident of the 8th Floor of LTA Building on Perea Street, Makati City, this P1 million will be our little contribution for his (legal) defense," they said.

On Toh's alleged letter to the First Gentleman, Gonzalez said that assuming there was indeed such a note, Toh can sue Lacson for violating Articles 230 and 290 of the Revised Penal Code for "revelation of secrets" and Article 364 for "intriguing against honor."

He said these offenses are punishable by imprisonment ranging from six months to six years.

She can also sue for damages under the Civil Code, which provides that "every person shall respect the rights, personality, privacy and peace of minds of his neighbors and other persons," he said.

"These provisions apply to, for example, circulating or making public the love letter of one person to another," Gonzalez said.

Lacson on Monday had read portions of Toh's letter to compare her handwriting with that on a check deposited in the Jose Pidal account.

Gonzalez said Lacson went too far in revealing the contents of the letter.

"That was too much. That's a private thing, and both Arroyo and Toh are private individuals," Gonzalez said.

In his privileged speech, Lacson also mentioned the names of Gonzalez and Rep. Monico Puentevella for having claimed that he and his wife, Alice Deperio Lacson, maintained bank accounts in the United States totaling $1.1 million.

Gonzalez took exception to Lacson's statement that he was acting like a spokesperson of Malacañang. He said that as a lawmaker, he has the "right to speak or comment on any issue of national interest and significance, especially to correct disinformation."

On the Jose Pidal accounts, opposition congressmen challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the Anti-Money Laundering Council to step in and freeze all accounts of Ignacio Arroyo and the multimillion bank deposits of Jose Pidal.

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Chief Dietician, Tondo Medical Center

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AMHOP President



Dr. Cesar G. Sia
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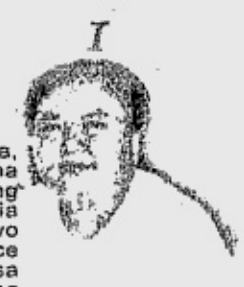
Dra. Lyra Leron Torres
Municipal Health Officer, Pagsanjan, Laguna

"Ang Charantia effective talaga kasi na-try ko na sa mga patients. Nakakatulong ito magpababa ng blood sugar, plus naa-afford talaga ng mga pasyente. Mayroon kasing mga patients na ayaw talaga ng gamot. At least itong Charantia, naniniwala pa rin sila sa mga herbals. Wala namang complications na kino-complain ang mga patients namin."



Dr. Jose Raymundo R. Carlos, Internal Medicine

"Nirerekomend ko ito as food supplement kasama doon sa diet, exercise at yung gamot. Sa mga suggestion ng mga nutritionist at dieticians, ang puedong inumin ng mga diabetiko kahit gaano karami ay calamansi juice o tsaa...Sina-suggest ko sa mga pasyente ko na ang magandang tsaa is yung Ampalaya. Napapansin ko pagmako-kontrol ko na ang sugar nila, binabawasan ko na yung dosage ng gamot nila. Malaking maitutulong sa atin ang Ampalaya, lalo na maraming mahihirap dito sa atin. Mga magdadalawang taon ko na nirerekomenda ang Charantia."



Dra. Marie Fe Lavarias-Ricohermoso
Medical Officer IV, Sun Valley Health Center

"Mga patients naming gumagamit ng Charantia, nagno-normal ang bowel movement nila, hindi na sila pala ihi sa gabi. Nagno-normal ang kanilang blood sugar. Added regimen namin ang Charantia aside from medication, diet at exercise. For two years ko nang nirerekomenda ito. Sa experience namin sa diabetic club nirerekomenda ko rin ito sa ibang kasamahan kong doctors na gumamit sila ng Charantia."

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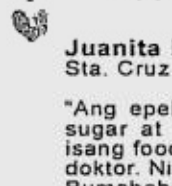
Salustiano Lipid
Sun Valley Diabetic Club President

"Halos dalawang taon na akong umiinom ng Charantia. Ito po'y food supplement. Ngayon nakakapag sibak ako ng kahoy doon sa amin. Kapag nauwi ng probinsya, nakakapag maneho pa ako. Subukan po ang Charantia. Pinapangako po namin na malaki ang maitutulong sa inyo."



Consolacion Hubilla, 57, housewife
Sun Valley Diabetic Club member

"Sapul po na gumamit ako ng Charantia, ang aking diabetes magmula sa 288 bumaba po ng 183. Nakakapaglaba na ako mula umaga hanggang tanghali. Mas nabibigyan ko rin ang apo ko ng atensyon kaysa dati."



Juanita Bernardino
Sta. Cruz (Laguna) Diabetic Club President

"Ang epek sa akin ng Charantia bumababa ang aking blood sugar at di na ako napapagod masyado. Ang Charantia ay isang food supplement. Huwag itigil ang gamot na ibinigay ng doktor. Nirerekomend ko ang Charantia sa mga kasamahan ko. Bumababa din ang kanilang blood pressure."



Jovita Liwag, 58, housewife
Sun Valley Diabetic Club member

"Last year pa ako umiinom ng Charantia. Si doktora ang nagkumbinsi sa akin uminom. Masigla daw ang katawan ko sabi ng anak ko. Subukan ninyo para malaman niyo na garantisado talaga ang Charantia."

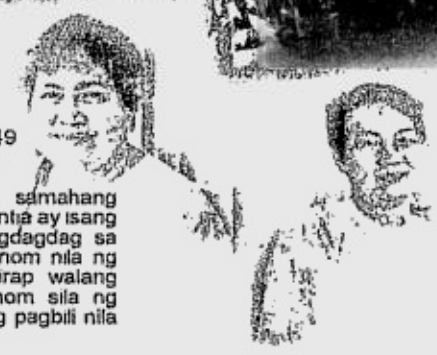












Sylvia dela Costa Faustino, 49
KATUDIB Diabetic Club President

"Bilang presidente ng isang samahang KATUDIB, sinasabi ko na ang Charantia ay isang food supplement na puedeng pangdagdag sa inumin para mabawasan ang pag-inom nila ng gamot. Kasi karaniwan sa mahihirap walang pambili ng gamot kaya pag uminom sila ng Charantia medyo nababawasan ang pagbili nila ng gamot."

Elizabeth Francisco, 57
Pasay General Hospital Diabetic Club
(Acting) President

"Matagal na akong umiinom ng Charantia. Lagi akong antukin noon. Malaki ang naitutulong ng Charantia. Herbal supplement lang naman iyan, hindi delikado."



Lilian G. Tapia, 55, housewife
Pagsanjan Diabetic Club Vice-President

"Mga two years ago nakapag-take na ako ng Charantia. Mabilis na bumaba ang aking blood sugar. Sinubukan kong itigil ito, tumaas na naman ang blood sugar ko. Sabi ko nga talagang approved yung Charantia."



Trinidad Nabong, 66, store owner
KATUDIB Diabetic Club Secretary

"Charantia, rekomendado yan ni doktor. Masigla ako ngayon. Kasi noong mataas ang diabetes ko talaga namang nakaratay lang ako sa tumba-tumba (rocking chair)."



Erlinda Duqueza, 60, housewife
Pasay General Hospital
Diabetic Club member

"Alam ko naman na Ampalaya ang Charantia. Bumaba ang sugar ko pagumiinom ako nito."



Flocerfida Casas, 50
baranggay health worker
Pagsanjan Diabetic Club member

"Sa kagaya kong health worker, kailangan maging active ang katawan namin. Pansin ko ng umiinom ako ng Charantia naging masigla ang katawan ko at malayo ako sa sakit.
Dapat lang irekomenda ang Charantia kasi kita naman namin na may pagbabago talaga. Magaan din naman ito sa bulsa."

Aida Morales, 62, PRO
Pila Diabetic Club member

"Hindi na masyadong namamanhid ang aking mga kamay dahil sa pag-inom ko ng Charantia."



Mexically Espinosa, 37
baranggay health worker
Pila Diabetic Club member

"Mga isang taon na umiinom ako ng Charantia. Nawala sa akin yung sa umaga tinatamad ako. Ang Charantia parang pampalakas sa mga diabetics."

Florencia Balderama, 61, housewife
Sta. Cruz (Laguna) Diabetic Club member

"Noong mauso na ang Charantia nag-umpisa na akong uminom nito. Tuwing umiinom ako ng gamot, Charantia ang pinaka-tubig ko. Malaki ang ibinababa ng sugar ko."

Norma Adan Sarmiento, 63, retired court employee
Pasay General Hospital Diabetic Club member

"Mas maganda kung sa sarili mo talaga masubukan. Di ko inaalis totally yung gamot. Pero di ko rin inaalis ang Charantia... Yung asawa kong diabetiko nagkaroon siya ng komplikasyon sa heart. Yung mama ko ganun din. Sabi ko nga siguro kung during that time mayroon nang Charantia baka humaba pa ng konti buhay nila."



Angela Alvarano, 80
Pasay General Hospital
Diabetic Club member

"Yan ang kape ko. Magaan ang katawan ko matapos uminom ng Charantia. Noon mabigat ang katawan ko...sabi ko nga mamamatay na ako. Ngayon inom na ako ng inom ng Charantia, gumagaan na ang katawan ko."

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Advt

Mike seeks pity; Udong, forgiveness

From page A1

and my family."

"What I'm asking is my accusers would be man enough to face me," he said, adding:

"Senator Lacson, in front of your peers and our entire people, I renew my challenge to you—be a man and file your case and face me in court. Do not resort to mere grandstanding wearing the skirt of parliamentary immunity."

In two privileged speeches delivered on Aug. 18 and Sept. 1, Lacson accused Arroyo of owning 12 secret bank accounts containing P260 million under the names of Jose Pidal, Victoria Toh, Kelvin Tan and Thomas Toh.

But yesterday, Lacson's former star witness Eugenio Mahusay Jr., who has since returned to Arroyo's camp, recanted his allegations against the First Gentleman.

Arroyo said he was seeking pity from Lacson for his family, and pointed out that the senator's accusations had nothing to do with government dealings but were something personal.

He said he came to the Senate yesterday as a private citizen to face Lacson's charges out of "respect" for the senator's office and "this august institution." And yet, he said, Lacson had not offered "one iota of proof."



THE MANY faces of Mike Arroyo as he challenges his accuser, Sen. Panfilo Lacson (right), to end his misery and just file the cases in court. ERNIE U. SARMENTO

Angry

Arroyo told news anchor Mel Tiangco last night on GMA 7 that his wife was angry at him as a result of Lacson's accusations. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

But not a word was heard from the President regarding her reaction to her husband's grilling at the Senate.

In a briefing earlier yesterday, Ricardo Saludo, deputy spokesperson for Ms Macapagal, said the Office of the President had reiterated that the corruption charges against the First Gentleman were "private matters."

"We have taken the position that we would not be making any statements or personal opinions on purely private matters," Saludo said in reply to incessant questions from reporters seeking insights on how the President viewed the Senate inquiry being conducted by the blue ribbon committee and two other committees.

Saludo said that since the hearing had so far focused on the activities of the First Gentleman, Malacañang had no comment to make.

So far, Malacañang has only touched on the allegation that a Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office check had been deposited in the Jose Pidal account—a statement that the Palace said was erroneous.

Saludo said he could not confirm whether the President was monitoring the proceedings at the Senate, which lasted up to midafternoon.

"I do not have any knowledge if she watched the proceedings. Everyone knows she had a full day of activities," Saludo said.

The President started her day with the celebration of Nueva Ecija Day. She arrived back in Malacañang at midafternoon for the Cabinet meeting.

The meeting was to have been held at lunchtime aboard the inaugural run of the roll-on, roll-off Bataan-to-Manila route, but this was canceled because of the inclement weather.

Saludo promised to get the President's reply on whether she had watched part of the Senate hearing, and whether she knew her husband's personal secretary and accountant, Victoria Toh.

Silent

At the hearing, Arroyo said he had been challenging Lacson to file a case against him in court but had been met with "deafening silence."

He said he had to file civil and criminal cases for libel against Lacson so as to compel the senator and the other respondents to face him in court and thereby be made responsible for their "malicious lies made outside the halls of Congress and [in the] media."

Arroyo said that although he was by protocol addressed as the First Gentleman, he had no official power or resources to protect himself.

He reiterated that Lacson's allegations were mere propaganda.

Arroyo lamented that Lacson had "unfairly and maliciously" dragged the names of many innocent people in the mud.

"There are many people who have been unnecessarily inconvenienced and maligned. All in the name of politics," Arroyo said. "*Maawa naman siya sa bayan* (He should take pity on the country)."

Drilon says 'Jose Pidal' SPA worthless

From page A1

"As drafted, the SPA cannot be used as it did not contain the signature of 'Jose Pidal' in whose name the accounts appear," Drilon said.

He stressed that the document, to be binding upon him and the banks, should be signed by Jose Pidal himself. It should provide all details of the banks and bank account numbers under that name.

Ignacio Arroyo took up Lacson's challenge to draw up the document to prove that he was Jose Pidal.

In an interview over radio station dzBB, Drilon said the executor of a special power of attorney was required to provide details. "That's why the special power of attorney should specify what bank, the account number and the account owner," he said.

Asked to comment on Ignacio Arroyo's statement that any money that could be found in the accounts would be given to Senate employees, Drilon said they would accede to the request if that was what the First Gentleman's brother authorized in the document.

In his four-page SPA, Ignacio identified himself as Jose Pidal and "appointed and constituted" Drilon "as my true and lawful attorney-in-fact" to withdraw ... all monies now deposited in any and all the bank accounts."

PCSO denial

He listed 13 bank account numbers. Ignacio said the SPA given to Drilon was "irrevocable."

In Vigan City, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chair Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" Singson-de Leon yesterday belied Lacson's claim that her agency had deposited a P1.35-million check to the Jose Pidal account.

"The senator was given fabricated information and spurious documents. He should have first verified (these) before coming out (with the exposé)," De Leon, sister of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

De Leon claimed that the PCSO indeed issued a Land Bank of the Philippines check (No. 061283) as alleged by Lacson, but not to the Pidal account.

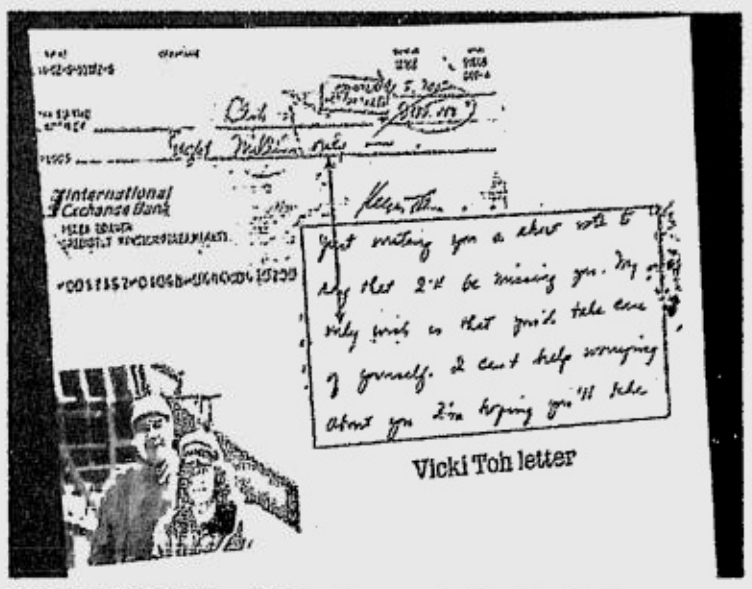
She said the check, worth only P23,000 and not P1.35 million as Lacson had claimed, was issued to Fortunato Tiratira as payment for his lotto prize.

She said Tiratira received the prize for getting five correct numbers in the six-digit lotto draw.

"We are now looking for the original checks so that the whole truth comes out," De Leon said.

She said she could not remember if she had indeed signed any check for "Jose Pidal," citing the average 300 checks that her office issues daily for lottery and sweepstakes prizes and the PCSO's charity programs.

De Leon said she was not discounting the possibility that Lacson had included her office in his "fishing expedition" against the First Couple because she is the sister of Singson, a known enemy of his. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



THE ALLEGED letter of Vicky Toh presented by Senator Lacson as part of his evidence against the First Gentleman. JESS YUSON

Mahusay says revenge motive against 'ninong'

From page A1

and that he denied.

Mahusay claimed that he turned against Arroyo, his godfather for whom he formerly worked as a messenger, after the latter blamed him for the loss of a cell phone and a certain amount of money.

As predicted by the Lacson camp, Mahusay cleared virtually all 24 persons cited by Lacson in a privileged speech.

He repeatedly said he had invented the contents of his July 21 affidavit just to get back at Arroyo. He added that the affidavit was based on a handwritten draft that he had submitted to Lacson's office.

Asked by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon who finalized the affidavit, Mahusay said: "They did. The office of Senator Lacson."

He said a certain Alex Carlos helped him draw up his accusations against Arroyo, and was the person who produced the bank statements, including that of Jose Pidal.

He also named lawyers Jose Flaminiano, Rene Saguisag and former Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero, among others, as having prepared the final affidavit.

"I was just asked to return on July 21 [to sign it]," he said.

On that day, he said, among those present were ex-journalist Ermin Garcia, lawyer Julie Dumlao, Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia and a secretary of Lacson spokesperson Lito Banayo.

Mahusay also said he had merely used Lacson in "telling lies" to get even with the First Gentleman, and begged the senator's forgiveness.

'Tailor-fit'

In reply, Lacson said Mahusay did not need to seek forgiveness because he had inadvertently helped the country by revealing the supposed excesses and irregularities of the Macapagal administration.

"I still salute you, Udong," the senator said in Filipino, addressing Mahusay by his nickname.

Lacson told Mahusay it appeared that the new affidavit had been "tailor-fit" to destroy the first one "point by point."

But Mahusay said the new affidavit contained the "truth."

He said he did what he did out of spite because Victoria Toh, Arroyo's personal accountant and secretary, had accused him of stealing a cell phone and cash from the First Gentleman's office at the LTA Building in Makati City.

He added that the talk against him in the office and Arroyo's supposed loss of trust in him pushed him to decide not to go to work anymore in February last year.

"Because of my anger against Toh and Arroyo, I decided to take revenge on them," Mahusay said.

Asked by Lacson if he was still angry at Arroyo, he said his bad feelings, which were "overwhelming," remained.

But he reiterated that he had come to his senses and seen that he was wrong, and that "in this situation, even President Macapagal-Arroyo has been implicated."

Still under questioning by Lacson, Mahusay said what prompted him to return to Arroyo's camp was the fear he felt after overhearing a conversation between two security men supposedly provided by the senator.

He said the two, whom he named only as Boy and Dagul, talked about liquidating him on their way back to the Milestone Hotel in Tagaytay City, after he was presented by Lacson to select members of the media on the night of Aug. 25.

True and false

In his new affidavit, Mahusay confirmed that there was a Jose Pidal account and that he withdrew P1 million from it on the orders of Victoria Toh.

He said that although he wanted to show that Arroyo and Toh were romantically involved, he had never said that Toh was the First Gentleman's mistress.

He also said it was his anger at Toh that made him make up the story about the lovers, including his serving them red wine and his buying flowers for her every Valentine's Day.

Mahusay said he did not mention the following in his July 21 affidavit but were included there:

- That there was a Jose Pidal account in the Bank of the Philippine Islands, a Kelvin Tan account, and a Thomas Toh account.
- That friends and associates of the First Couple—named as Honeyboy Palanca, Bob Go Tong, Amable Aguiluz, Dante Soriquez, George Ty and Ramon Jacinto—gave checks deposited in the Jose Pidal and Lualhati Foundation accounts.
- A Kishore Hemlani, whom he said he did not know.
- That Arroyo was the signatory of the Jose Pidal account, that he deposited money in a Thomas Toh account, and that he withdrew money from a Kelvin Tan account.
- That former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez had given a check.
- That he was ordered to deposit into and withdraw money from the Thomas Toh, Kelvin Tan and Jose Pidal accounts at the BPI Family bank.
- That the money in the transactions he had made for Arroyo amounted to P1 billion.

Mahusay claimed ignorance of the names of the banks, account numbers and their owners, which were mentioned in his July 21 affidavit.

"I don't know. I did not say that," he kept saying.

He said that his earlier draft contained only three entities—Jose Pidal, Lualhati Foundation and Victoria Toh—and that he had no idea why other personalities supposedly involved in Arroyo's illegal activities were put into the final affidavit dated July 21.

Other concoctions

Mahusay said he also concocted the accusation that there were people coming to the LTA Building to deliver cash and have this deposited to bank accounts.

He said the people he named in his earlier story were those whom he saw visiting the First Gentleman: Benjamin Chua of La Tondeña; Ephraim Genuino of Pagcor; Ryan Cordeta; lawyer Ching Vargas of the Office of the President; and former Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

He said Dante Ang, the President's former personal publicist, was also a visitor at the building but was not mentioned in the affidavit.

He also said he included former military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus among Arroyo's visitors, and that Corpus received money from the First Gentleman, because he knew that Lacson was angry at the military officer.

Mahusay also confirmed that he first approached opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to set off the exposé against his former boss.

Under questioning by Pimentel, Mahusay said he executed and signed an affidavit prior to the July 21 document, except that the first was not notarized.

"Yes, they are the same," he said. "I just invented the other details because of my desire to get back at Mr. Arroyo."

He said both affidavits were executed at the same time, but Carlos "might have kept" the first one.

Pimentel had earlier said a group of people, including Mahusay, came to see him about 10 months ago, but that he refused to accommodate them because "they offered uncorroborated and incomplete documents."

The senator also said he viewed Mahusay as "someone who can be easily threatened and bought with money."

Mahusay said it was Carlos who arranged the meeting with Pimentel at a restaurant on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

He said Pimentel asked him whether he had documents to prove his case against Arroyo. But after disclosing what he had and that he was angry at Arroyo, he said, Pimentel told him he would not be a good witness because of his grudge.

Toh disowns love letter: That's not mine

By Alcuin Papa

THAT's not mine!

Controversial accountant Victoria Toh said yesterday the love note Sen. Panfilo Lacson showed in public during his privileged speech the other day was not hers. The note, Lacson had said, was allegedly addressed to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Through her lawyer Gelacio Mamaril, Toh said there were "many people with the same handwriting as mine."

She explained that women who went to her exclusive girls high school in Makati City, which she refused to mention, were trained to write in the same distinctive manner.

"Why would Senator Lacson conclude that the letter was mine based on only one word? In fact, people who come from one exclusive school tend to have a certain distinct way of writing. He has absolutely no basis for making that conclusion," Mamaril said, quoting his client.

Toh, who is reportedly in Canada, added that even her officemates said the handwriting on the supposed love letter was not hers. "Ask anyone who knows me if that is my handwriting. Even my officemate says that handwriting is not mine. It is too nice, too legible and prints too small. On many occasions, they have to return to me what I wrote because they cannot understand my writing."

The lawyer also belied Lacson's claim that Kelvin Tan lost money when he set up a laundromat and shoe business. "I know them and they don't have these businesses that failed. In the first place, their business are lumber and hardware."

Mamaril also said his clients denied owning any of the new bank accounts Lacson mentioned.

"I have never had any joint account with Jose Pidal in all the banks he (Lacson) mentioned. All those accounts he claims we own here and abroad are imaginary and non-existent. He is inventing and fabricating accounts," Toh said in a statement released by Mamaril's office.

She added that if Lacson would insist those accounts were real and exist, "he (Lacson) can have them, but if there are no such accounts, how much will he pay for all the damages he caused us with all his lies and fabrications. He should be ready to pay me the amounts he manufactured."

Bank accounts

In particular, Toh denied that Kelvin Tan owned an Allied Bank account with account number 003461-00357-3, which Lacson said contained P9,625,300 as of July 2003.

She also denied she kept a Banco Filipino account with account number 11043-000684-2 with P16,290,075 in deposits, and a Banco de Oro account numbered 0021-8008-731 with P19,531,000 as of July 2003.

Finally, Toh said his brother Thomas, also Mamaril's client, does not own a Metrobank account with account number 007-431-000376-9, reportedly with a balance of P8,175,690 as of July 2003.

Mamaril said Vicky Toh was "saddened that Senator Lacson has no other recourse but to use other people to throw mud at the First Gentleman."

Mamaril added that "it is now high time that the Senate Committee on Ethics should investigate its member Sen. Panfilo Lacson, for using the halls of the Senate to peddle unfounded assertions and besmirch someone else's reputation and destroy social institutions."

The lawyer, in behalf of the Tohs, filed a criminal case of libel against Lacson the other day before Manila courts.

'Onyok' sends...

From page A20

cal Service Administration.

When signal no. 2 is declared, classes in both elementary and high school are suspended.

Typhoon signal no. 3 automatically suspends classes in all levels.

A key consideration for suspending classes yesterday, Atienza said, was the flooding in rain-affected areas.

According to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), ankle and knee-deep floods were experienced on the streets of Dapitan, Ma. Clara, Maceda, Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard, Altura, M.H. Del Pilar, Isagani, Abad Santos, Blumentritt, Antipolo, Dimasalang, Oroqueta, Yuseco, Laong-Laan, Mendoza, Cavite, L. Rivera and Antipolo, all in Manila.

Waist-deep water was recorded at the corner of España and Maceda at 9 a.m.

Along Ortigas Avenue, Marcos Highway and A. Bonifacio Avenue, traffic was painfully slow, stranding hundreds of commuters.

It took commuters from Marikina at least one hour to reach Pasig City.



PEDESTRIANS tip-toe on an improvised bridge to cross a flooded portion of Taft Avenue in Manila, which was badly affected when typhoon "Onyok" dumped heavy rains in Metro Manila yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

NBI lends hand in hunt for robbers

By Alcuin Papa and Leila Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation would assist the police in tracking down two of the suspects involved in Monday's Union Bank heist in Parañaque City.

Parañaque policemen are hot on the trail of the robbery suspects, identified as brothers Reynaldo and Gerry Antonio, and a Victor Vargas of Santolan, Pasig.

Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief, said Vargas is the head of the group.

Estilles said they are coordinating the manhunt with members of the NBI's Special Action Unit.

NBI officials said the brothers Antonio were the main suspects in the July 17 robbery of a Union Bank branch in Quezon City.

The bureau has provided the Parañaque police copies of all pertinent documents related to the Quezon City heist. NBI agents have been after the Antonio brothers and their cohort, Danilo Francisco, since July.

The NBI's Special Action Unit under Director Vicente De Guzman arrested the Antonio brothers on July 25 in Cagayan De Oro City.

NBI sources said the three suspects have been released on bail a few days after their arrest.

"Robbery is a bailable offense, and even if the suspects are arrested 10 times, they could still be allowed to post bail for robbery unless they kill or hurt someone," said one investigator who asked not to be named.

Estilles said they were able to identify Vargas based on documents the three robbers left behind at the bank.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez has offered a P50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the robbers who hit the Union Bank branch on on Km. 18, West Service Road.

Not enough cops to deploy in buses, says NCRPO

THERE is a snag in the plan of the National Capital Region Police Office to deploy plainclothes lawmen on buses to foil robberies.

According to NCRPO officials, it would be difficult for them to field "bus detectives" on the estimated 4,000 buses that operate in the metropolis daily.

The plan involved the formation of two-man teams that would board the buses to ensure the safety of passengers. But authorities said that would call for the deployment of 8,000 policemen in civilian clothes.

Officials said that would leave them with not enough men to tend to other peace and order concerns in the streets. The NCRPO has about 17,000 policemen.

Authorities have now decided to randomly deploy the men. And to augment this force, the NCRPO would create "staging points" where policemen could set up desks in key areas to monitor the operations of passenger buses.

NCRPO officials yesterday said that they would also form a technical committee that would design signals and codes which bus drivers and conductors could use in communicating with patrolling lawmen.

On Monday, NCRPO officials began deploying uniformed policemen in buses. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Elderly man dies on his knees in Paco church

WALLY Velasco got to pray before he died.

The 67-year-old senior citizen and resident of Concepcion Street, Ermita, Manila, died inside the Paco Catholic Church during an early morning mass yesterday.

SP01 Raul Olavario said that Velasco had been kneeling during mass at around 6:30 a.m. yesterday when his unidentified seatmate saw him collapse.

The seatmate then noticed that Velasco had vomited blood and immediately informed the security guards about the victim's condition.

Velasco was rushed to the Paco Medical and Dental Clinic, where he was declared dead on arrival, police said.

Olavario said there were no signs of injuries on Velasco's body. His remains were taken to the Universal Parlor morgue. *Leila Salaverria*

Fleeing robbers accidentally drop part of loot

A TECHNICAL services company on Monday lost P300,000 to two men on a motorcycle in Manila.

SP01 Celso Tan said one of the two suspects grabbed the bag containing money from Joan Lucero, secretary of the Technical Service Provider, Inc., at around 10:30 a.m.

Tan said Lucero and Bong Yumul, one of the incorporators of the company, had just come from the Bank of Commerce and were a few feet away from their office on New Panaderos Street, Sta. Ana, Manila, when the robbers struck.

The suspects then fled toward Sta. Ana. But in their haste, they accidentally dropped part of the loot—P65,000—which was inside an envelope. Police recovered the cash and turned it over to the company.

Tan said it was the first time the company took out such a large amount of money from the bank. The money was supposed to be used to pay for the company employees' salaries and for SSS remittances. *Leila Salaverria*

METROBRIEFS

Girl taken hostage

A GIRL, 16, was not able to finish what she was cooking for lunch yesterday because her uncle got a kitchen knife, grabbed her arm and took her hostage. For two hours, Eligio Pogoy, 37, held the girl hostage, demanding P10,000 and a taxi from his niece's parents who were then outside their house in Valenzuela City. At 1:30 p.m., the girl was safely rescued when her grandfather pretended to give money to the suspect. When Pogoy was reaching out for the money, the lawmen quickly grabbed Pogoy's knife and took the girl away from the suspect. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Woman survives stabbing

IF NOT for a Good Samaritan, Hazel Dominguez, 27, would most likely be dead by now, police said. Dominguez was robbed of her jewelry and cellular phones and stabbed several times by a taxi driver and another robber at around 11 p.m. Monday, P03 Allan Drilon said. The robbers then dropped the bleeding victim on Calderon Street, Mandaluyong City. But Demetrio Salipsip, who was passing by, saw the woman on the street and took her to the Medical City Hospital, Drilon said. *Luige del Puerto*

Guard slays snatcher

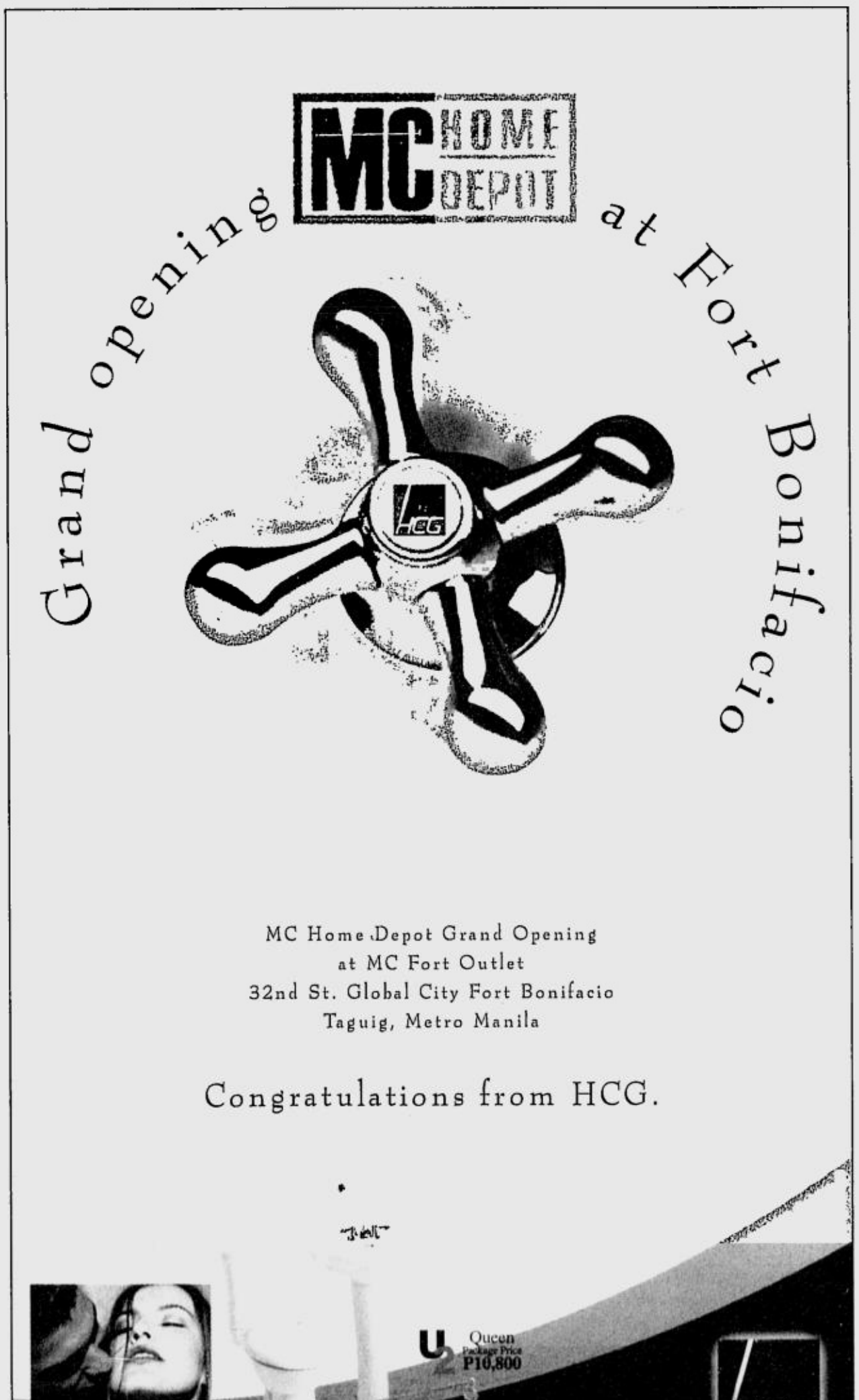
A SUSPECTED snatcher was shot and killed on Monday afternoon during a scuffle with a security guard of the University of Sto. Tomas. SP02 Edmundo Cabal said the armed guard, Michael Maala, heard the cry of a student whose cellular phone was snatched inside the campus on España Street, Manila at around 2 p.m. Maala, 30, of Caloocan City, gave chase and caught the unidentified suspect on Rosarito Street. The snatcher tried to fight off the guard, but Maala's gun went off and hit the suspect in the left ear. The man died while undergoing treatment at the UST hospital, police said. *Leila Salaverria*

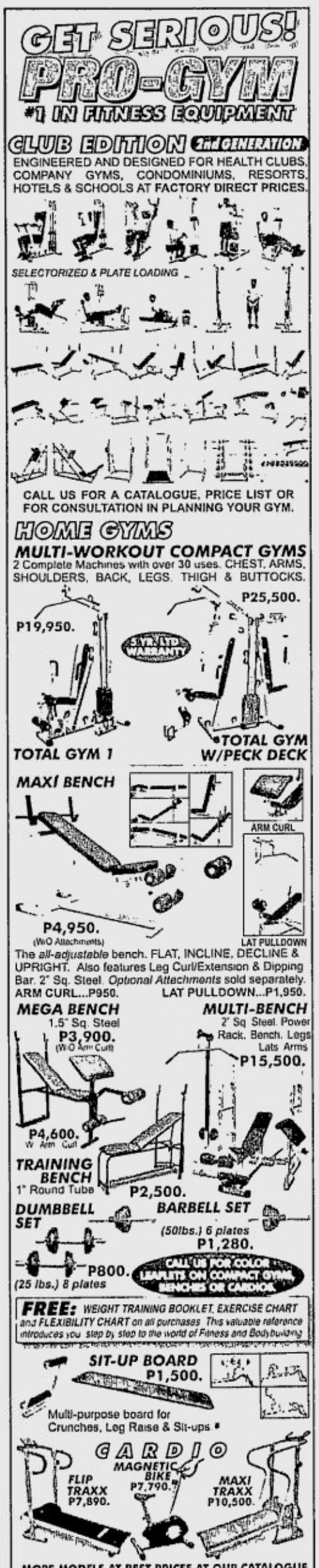
Kiddie shooter falls

LAWMEN on Monday arrested a boy, 13, for shooting a welder during a rumble on Malolos Street, Tejeros, Makati. Police said Rosalino Balajadia, 50, was in his workshop on Malolos Street when a brawl erupted between two street gangs at around 3:30 p.m. The boy fired an improvised shotgun at the rival group, but hit Balajadia instead. Witnesses identified the youngster as the shooter. The victim was taken to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment. The boy is now in police custody and will be turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. *Alcuin Papa*

Storeowner killed

SARI-SARI store owner Nestor Arellano was shot and killed in Taguig early yesterday morning. Taguig lawmen believed that robbery was the motive behind the killing of Arellano, 42, of Pinagsama Village, Barangay Western Bicutan. Police said Arellano was opening his store at around 5 a.m. when the gunmen appeared. Arellano was shot in the back of his head and died instantly. *Alcuin Papa*





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

SIX DIGIT 9 5 4 6 8 5

SUERTRES (In exact order) 7 7 5

6/42 Luzon 2 7 15 19 20 37

Vis-Min 4 6 13 16 30 34

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

'Onyok' sends kids home

By the Metro Staff

THERE were no typhoon signals over Metro Manila but still students from all levels in most cities and towns in the metropolis were sent home due to heavy rains and flooding.

Classes were suspended in the cities of Manila, Quezon, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Marikina, Caloocan, Malabon, Valenzuela and the towns of San Juan and Navotas.

Most of the classes were suspended as early as 5:30 a.m. while others were interrupted early in the afternoon.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said that many of the mayors were forced to stop the holding of classes despite the lack of a typhoon signal because of the flooding.

"There was no pronouncement (from the Department of Education) and streets were already flooded, so we had to make a judgment call in the absence of a typhoon signal," said Atienza.

He said that while there was technically no typhoon in Metro Manila, he decided to suspend classes in elementary and high school before 6 a.m., after going around the city.

Based on procedures formulated by the DepEd, classes in public and private elementary schools are automatically suspended in areas where typhoon signal no. 1 has been raised by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomi-

'ONYOK'/ A19



TWO girls wait for a ride after classes in all levels are suspended due to the effects yesterday of typhoon "Onyok." JOAN BONDOC

Fire and rain mix in Manila

By Leila B. Salaverria

FIRE hit two communities in Manila yesterday amid the heavy downpour that sent much of Metro Manila under water.

At 10:22 a.m., fire of still unknown origin began at a two-story apartment occupied by Romeo Gutierrez, 72, at 1917 Makata St., Tayuman, Sta. Cruz.

Insp. Reggie Olmedo of the Manila Fire Department said Gutierrez suffered second degree burns and was taken to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

A fireman, Senior Fire Officer 3 Danilo Galang, suffered scratches when the roof of a burning house fell on him.

The fire destroyed six houses before it was put out at 11:06 a.m. Damage was estimated at P1 million.

In the afternoon, the rains were still pouring when an hour-long fire gutted shanties at the Parola Compound at Area A, North Harbor, in the Port Area.

The blaze started at 2:24 p.m. and was put out at 3:34 p.m., according to F03 Marlon Banahag.

The Parola community is home to informal settlers whose houses are built side-by-side.

No one was reported injured in the blaze but authorities were trying to confirm reports that one person was missing.

Policemen at the scene said an afternoon drizzle helped put out the blaze.

15 cops probed for alleged theft of seized shabu

By Christian V. Esguerra

A PROBE has been launched against 15 lawmen led by two ranking officers on allegations they took 50 kilos of shabu from a drug laboratory in Tanza, Cavite, that was raided by the police in July.

News of the investigation reached media after Chief Insp. Nelson Yabut, one of the two officers tagged in the alleged theft, publicly decried the accusations against them.

Yabut along with Senior Supt. Federico Lasiste and some of their men purportedly took a portion of the illegal drugs worth P100 million seized from the Tanza shabu factory on July 26.

If proven guilty, the officers could face the death penalty as prescribed by the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Yabut yesterday denied the charges, saying these could be the work of people with links to drug syndicates.

He said he and his men could not have taken some of the shabu since barangay representatives were present throughout the raid.

"Those behind the charges are just out to destroy us and the government's campaign against illegal drugs," he said in an interview.

Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay, the police anti-drug czar, confirmed the probe on the lawmen but refused to provide details.

"Let's just wait for the result of the investigation," Aglipay said.



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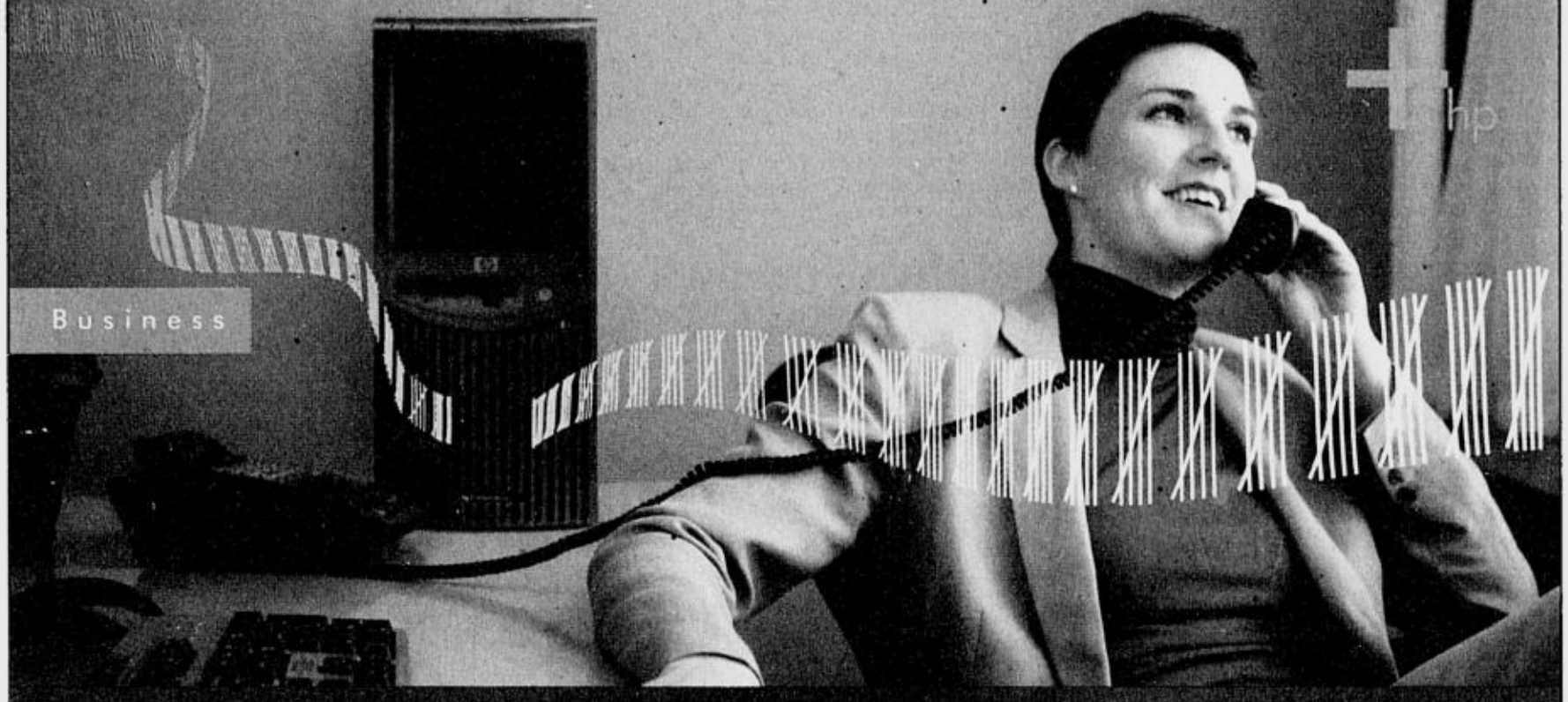
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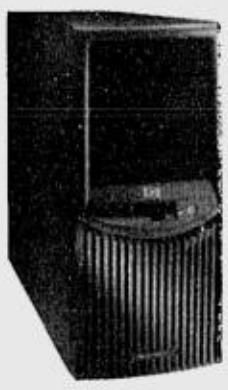
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

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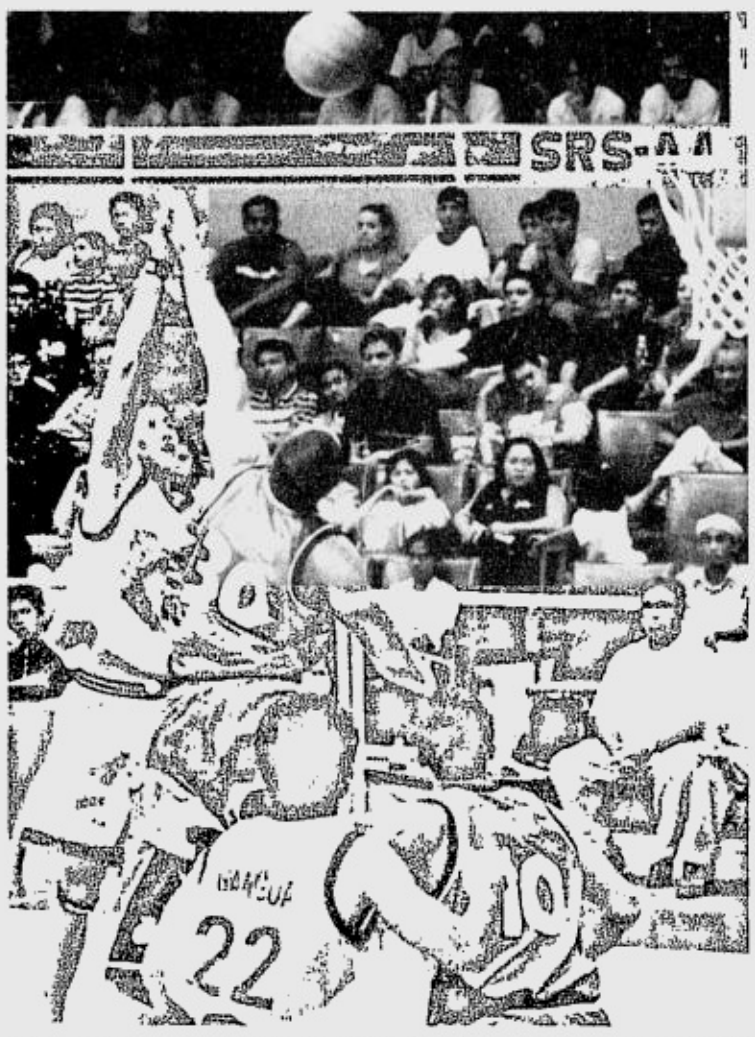


■ Capriati needs 6 hrs to advance /A23

■ Great Scott wraps up title with ease /A24



Aces, Tigers get going against separate foes


SMB'S Danny Ildefonso puts up a shot off Barangay Ginebra's Eric Menk during their game Sunday. The Gin Kings prevailed, 85-82. RUDY ESPERAS

By June Navarro

FRESH from winning the Invitational championship, Alaska makes its debut in the season-ending Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference against Sta. Lucia Realty today at the Philsports Arena.

The Aces try to join Red Bull Barako, Shell and Barangay Ginebra in the winner's circle when they collide with the Realtors at 5 p.m.

The Coca-Cola Tigers, who couldn't go all the way in the last two conferences, open their campaign for another shot at the title at 7:30 p.m. against the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs.

The Thunder and Turbochargers pulled off impressive victories over FedEx and Talk 'N Text, respectively, while the Gin Kings nipped importless San Miguel in the first three games of the import-spiced conference over the weekend.

Alaska parades a *balik*-import, former Duke University standout Cris Carawel, as it tries to sustain its pace following its recent championship at the expense of Coca-Cola.

The 6-foot-4 Carawel steered the Aces to a semifinal finish in last year's Commissioner's Cup, which was eventually won by Red Bull.

Forced to take an extended vacation after failing to make the tournament proper in the Invitational, the Realtors swing back to action with Nate James as reinforcement.

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports*)
5 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Purefoods

James, who also played for Duke University, was a starter for the Blue Devils when they compiled an amazing 35-4 win-loss record in the 2000-01 season on the way to winning the US NCAA crown.

The Tigers, who also lost in the All Filipino finals to Talk 'N Text, will have league veteran Artemus McClary to back them up.

McClary, however, has a lot of adjusting to do with the well-rounded Tigers, having played with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, then Mobiline, during his first PBA stint.

Although the smallest among the current crop of imports at 6-foot-2, the 28-year-old McClary, fresh from a South Korean stint, is expected to bolster the Tigers' bid for another Finals appearance.

Purefoods finished last in the past two conferences and will count on an untested import in Harold Arceneaux to improve its chances of ending the season with a respectable finish.

TENNIS: US Open 2003; 7 a.m. (r-7 p.m.) and 11 p.m.; Star Sports—It's down to the final eight as the quarterfinal round takes place in the last grand slam event of the year.
Davis Cup 2003; 1 p.m.; Solar Sports—Thomas Enquist battles Leyton Hewitt in this quarterfinal match-up.

SPORTS TV
Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League-Clippers vs Raptors; 10:30 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.); Solar Sports—The other Los Angeles team meets Toronto in this off-season showcase.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SHELL NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

ACTIVE CHESS FINALISTS

Southern Luzon Leg
August 30 & 31, 2003
Batangas Provincial Sports Complex
Batangas City

Juniors Division

Ivan Gil Biag - Philippine Christian University - Dasmarinas (Cavite)

Christopher Manguiat - Batangas State University

Kiddies Division

Wesley So - Jesus Good Shepherd School (Cavite)

Eric Malayba - Pinagkawitan Elementary School (Lipa City)

All FINALISTS will compete in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship Grand Finals to be held from September 26 to 28, 2003 at the SSS Main, East Ave., Quezon City.



NOMURA CUP

Third man pulls down RP golfers

JEROME Delariarte shot one of the day's second best round of 69 and Juvic Pagunsan matched par 71 but the Philippines could only finish tied for fourth at the start of the Asia Pacific golf team championship at The Links in Port Douglas, Queensland.

With Jay Bayron contributing only a 77 as the third best score under the four-to-play, three-to-score format, the Filipinos totaled 217 in a tie with India.

That was four-over at the par-71 layout and six strokes behind New Zealand, which pooled a two-under par 211 to pace fancied host Australia and Japan by three strokes in this event more popularly known as the Nomura Cup.

Marvin Dumandan, the fourth member of the RP team which was rated highly due to its third place finish in the World Amateurs last year, struggled with a 78.

Unfazed by the credentials of the field that included newly crowned US amateur champion Nick Flanagan, Delariarte, the back-to-back national amateur champion, stood only two strokes off the individual lead held by New Zealand's Mark Smith, who shot a 67.

Matthew Holten backed Smith with a 71 and either Bradley Lies or Brad Shilton's 73 counted for New Zealand.

The Filipinos' campaign here is under the auspices of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. Admiral Louie Fernandez, NGAP vice president, is the delegation head and team skipper with Roger Retuerto as coach.

The RP team is trying to surpass its third-place finish in the World Team Championships last year in Malaysia.

Chinese Taipei, with 14-year-old Lo Shik-kai also firing a 69, held sixth place alone at 218 in the 15-nation field.

Despite a five-over-par 76 from travel-weary Flanagan, the defending champions stayed within striking distance of New Zealand.

Flanagan's teammate, Richard Moir of Queensland, shot a 70 while James Nitties of New South Wales managed a 71 and Western Australian Michael Sim a 73.

Flanagan struggled early but recovered his momentum on the homeward nine.

"My arms, when I was practicing, felt like they weighed 40 kilos each," he said. "I felt a lot better this morning and just hope I can help the guys out over the next few days."

Flanagan admitted he felt some pressure after his US amateur victory.

"I do feel like everybody thinks I'm going to be shooting the lights out over four rounds. I can't do it, I'm not a good enough player to do it," he said.

First round results:
211—New Zealand
214—Australia, Japan
217—Philippines, India
218—Chinese-Taipei
221—Pakistan, Korea
225—Singapore, Thailand
227—Malaysia
240—Hong Kong
246—Guam
254—Nepal
269—UAE

Meeting on sports red tape tomorrow

HOW does red tape in government slow down Philippine sports?

That's what Congress and the Presidential Management Staff will try to find out when they meet with national sports association officials, athletes and coaches tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel.

It's just a consultation meeting, according to Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim, to help speed up bureaucratic work in the government, particularly in the Philippine Sports Commission.

In turn, the representatives from Congress and the PMS will also try to explain the anti-red tape bill which the Arroyo government hopes to use to hasten projects, Lim added.

But Lim pointed out that the meeting won't be a forum to throw accusations at the PSC.

"This is just a consultation, there will be no politics. We just want to do our share in helping get rid of red tape that hampers NSA operations which also affects the training of athletes," he said.

28 SEAG bets avail of FG support

TWELVE boxers, six wrestlers, four divers, three tracksters and one judoka became the early beneficiaries of the P24 million grant from different private corporations backing the Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo project of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

The 28 athletes were endorsed by their respective National Sports Associations to the Philippine Sports Commission, headed by chair Eric Buhain, which will take care of funding their additional foreign exposures as part of their build-up for the coming Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

The country will again anchor its campaign in the Dec. 5-13 Games in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on a number of sports, particularly on 17 disciplines adopted by 18 corporations led by San Miguel Corp., which pitched in P10 million during the pledging session initiated by Arroyo in Malacañang last month.

Boxing, expected to be a rich source of medals in Vietnam, has lined up two trips for 12 fighters. A group that includes Lhyven Salazar, Violito Payla, Ferdie Gamo, Anthony Igusquiza, Florencio Ferrer, Francis Joven and Maraon Goles is set to leave for Mongolia to vie in the Narantuul Cup Amateur Boxing Championships on Sept. 15-20.

The second group of Bill Vicera, Warlito Parreñas, Genebert Basadre, Esmael Bacongon and Maximo Tabangcora will compete in a pre-SEA Games tournament in Vietnam on Oct. 1-7.

Aside from the boxers, Melchor Tumasis, Jimmy Angana, Michael Baletin, Marcus Valda, Francis Villanueva and Cristina Villanueva will leave for a training session under world-class wrestling coaches in Mongolia on Sept. 13-Oct. 28.

Four divers—Olympian Shiella Mae Perez, Rexel Ryan Fabriga, Jaime Asok and Zardo Domenios—are also set to attend a two-month training program in China starting next month.

Track and field athletes Maristella Torres, Dandy Gallenero and Sean Guevarra are taking part in the Singapore Open Athletics Championships on Sept. 5-8, while judoka John Baylon leaves for Japan on Sept. 22 to train.

"There are many athletes being recommended for exposure and the NSAs have submitted lists of competitions where they feel their athletes would gain more in their preparations for the SEA Games in Vietnam," Buhain said. "We are thankful to the companies which helped First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in this endeavor."

Letran, JRU vie for choice slot

LETRAN and Jose Rizal fight for the other twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four today even as San Beda hopes to stay alive in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

Tied for second with 8-5 win-loss slates, the winner of the Knights-Heavy Bombers clash at 4 p.m. joins defending champion San Sebastian as the top teams needing just a win in the semifinals to reach the title playoffs.

The Stags (9-4) achieved that rare privilege courtesy of College of St. Benilde when the Blazers scored an 80-72 win over the Mapua Cardinals the other day.

The out-of-contention St. Benilde (5-8) also stand in the way of the Lions (6-7) in their bid to secure a possible playoff with idle Mapua (7-6) for the fourth and last semifinal slot.

But even if San Beda prevails in its 2 p.m. date with St. Benilde, the Cardinals would still secure the last berth with a victory over tail-ender Philippine Christian University.

With the Stags assured of the No. 1 slot, the Knights and Heavy Bombers are also expected to cross paths in the semifinals since today's loser will eventually finish third.

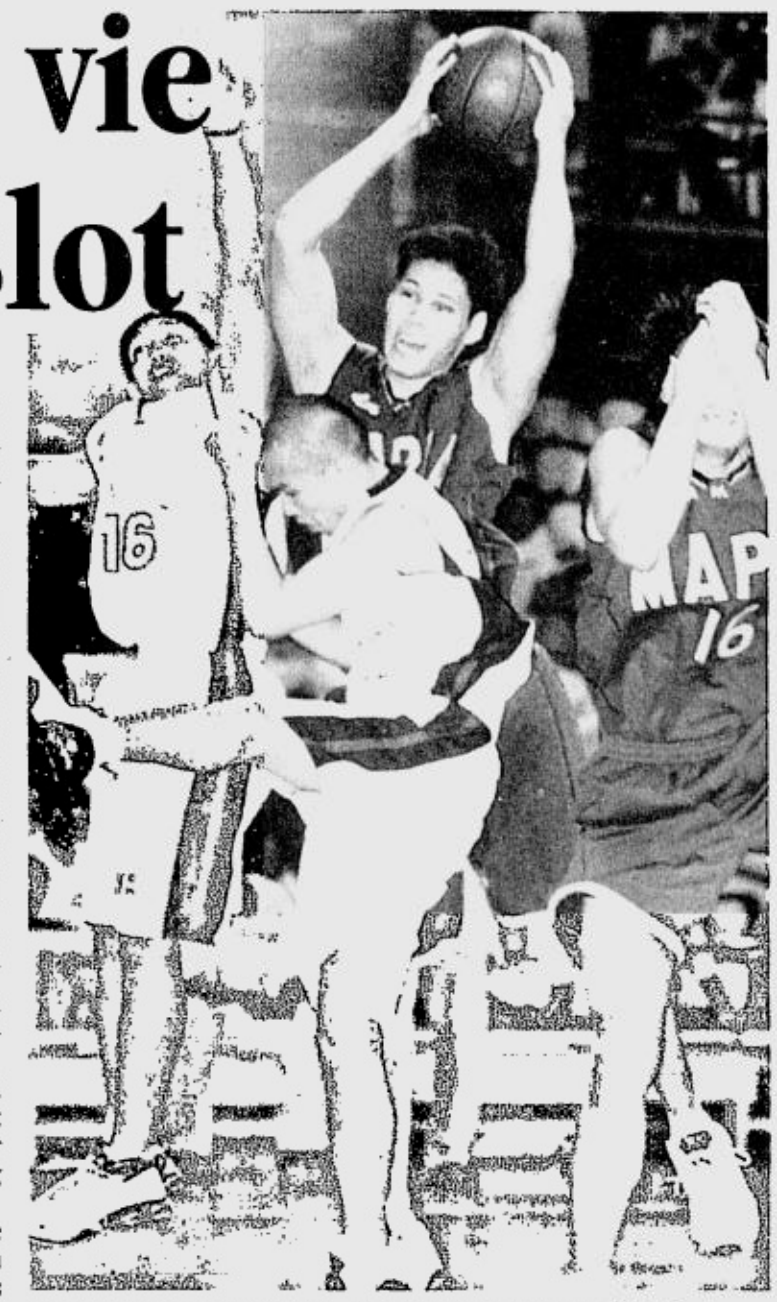
The Final Four format sends the top team against the No. 4 qualifier, with the No. 2 and 3 squads colliding in the other semifinal pairing.

San Sebastian faces Perpetual Help in its last game, but even if it loses, it will be ranked higher over either Letran or Jose Rizal, having beaten both earlier.

The Lions are in for a rough time against the Blazers, who also own victories over the Heavy Bombers and the Knights in the second round. *June Navarro*

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC-R	9	4
Letran	8	5
JRU	8	5
Mapua	7	6
SBC	6	7
UPHR	5	8
CSB	5	8
PCU	4	9

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—SBC vs CSB (Jrs)
2 p.m.—SBC vs CSB (Srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (Srs)
6 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (Jrs)



MAPUA'S Raymond Dula pulls down a rebound off St. Benilde's Paolo Orbeta (left) and Juan Luis Abad during their game Monday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SPORTSWATCH

UAAP junior basketball games moved

THE UAAP (University Athletic Association of the Philippines) juniors basketball game between Ateneo and University of Santo Tomas originally scheduled at 6 p.m. tomorrow has been moved to 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum. The University of the Philippines-National University juniors encounter originally set for Saturday has also been moved to Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Blue Eagle gym.

Barako Cup set at Eagle Ridge

THE FIRST Barako Cup has been scheduled at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite, on Nov. 14. Coffee enthusiasts, Figaro friends and franchisees are welcome to join the 18-hole tournament, according to the organizing Figaro Foundation Corp., the social service arm of Figaro Coffee Company.

Mendoza, Araullo rule Clark duathlon

RYAN Mendoza, regarded as the country's top duathlete, and former No. 1 junior triathlete Sandra Araullo topped their respective divisions in the fourth leg of the Clark Duathlon Grandprix 2003 at the Clark Special Economic zone in Mabalacat, Pampanga, over the weekend. Airman Mendoza bucked the strong challenge of back-to-back national triathlete champion George Vilog and former national triathlon titlist Mark Candelaria to finish in one hour 33 minutes and 43 seconds, three minutes and 14 seconds ahead of his closest rival. Quezon City's Araullo surged ahead in the early going of the bike leg and only had to race against the clock the rest of the 3-km run, 40-km bike and 5-km run course. She timed 2:01:25, nine minutes and 48 seconds clear of the field.

Salvador tops non-master chess

ROLAND Salvador lived up to his top seeding by downing Basilio Pandan in the seventh and final round and ruling the MCC-Riverbanks Center Non-Master Chess Tournament held over the weekend at the Riverbanks Mall in Marikina City. Salvador wound up with 6.5 points after seven rounds of play to claim the title and take home the champion trophy and the top purse of P3,000. No. 7 Richie Evangelista, who outplayed No. 5 Allan Macala in 34 moves of a King's Indian game, finished runner-up with a final score of six points and bagged P2,000 plus trophy. Category winners were: Pandan and Bengt Largo (2200 below); Rodolfo Mendoza (2000 below); Armando Labarda Jr. (unrated); Christian Cagadas and Jed Pornobi (juniors) and Kathlyn Mendoza (kiddies).

Congressman's football team ready

THE Maguindanao-Cotabato City Football Association has formed a highly competitive squad for the Adidas U-19 Championship tournament in Iloilo in October. Head coach and Football Association president Cabili Sinsuat said the squad, which has been training since July, is "quickly shaping up." Cabili added that Congressman Didagen Dilanggalen acts as the team manager of the squad, popularly known as Dilanggalen's team. The congressman is a prime supporter of football in the province and comes regularly to watch games. Team trainer John Ebol said the Maguidanao-Cotabato selection would be counting on the individual skills of Ruffy Llorento, RJ Paredes, Sharif Dianal, Alimar Minalang, Bubut Vergara and Lucky Amil.

Sto. Domingo paces football elims

LEGAZPI CITY—Sto. Domingo National High and Divine Word College posted two victories each recently to lead the Legazpi City-Albay eliminations of the 20th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament here. The Legazpi boys ripped Pawa, 7-2, and then blanked San Lorenzo High, 10-0, while the Divine Word booters edged Dynamic Computer School, 2-1, and then routed Banquerohan National High, 4-0. In other matches held over a three-day period, Banquerohan nosed out Homapon, 1-0; Gogon shut out Cabagnan, 2-0; Pag-Asa National High (Main) and Pag-Asa NHS (Annex) walked over Aquinas University and Ligao City High, respectively.



GOLF DONATION
Lovell Gopez, managing director of Master Sports, turns over to Admiral Luisito Fernandez (third from left), team captain of the Philippine team to the Asia-Pacific Amateur Golf Team Championship (Nomura Cup), the Mizuno stand golf bags he donated to the team. Other members of the team which left Aug. 29 for Australia are players Jay Bayron, Juvic Pagunsan, Jerome Delariarte, Marvin Dumandan (first, second, fifth and sixth, from left) and coach Roger Retuerto (fourth from left).

Mindanao Muslim leaders back Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MUSLIM leaders in Mindanao yesterday expressed their strong support to the holding of the Palarong Pambansa 2003 in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, on Oct. 5-12.

Marawi City Mayor Omar Ali said Muslim leaders have forged an agreement to back up Tubod in staging the annual sporting event among elementary and high school students during a one-day forum attended by the leaders at the Mindanao Civic Center on Aug. 28.

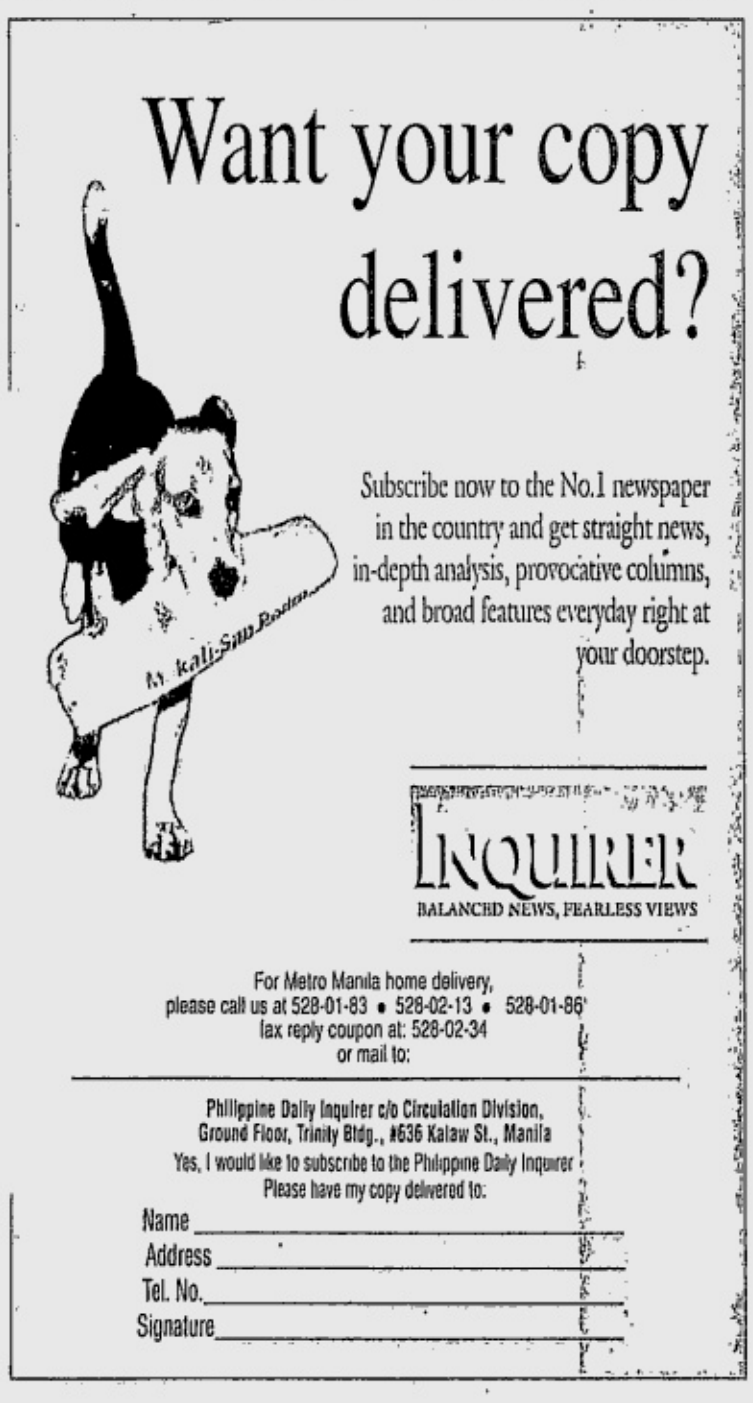
Lanao del Norte information officer Richelieu Umel said the Muslim leaders have "signified their intention to work closely in maintaining the peacekeeping efforts to prevent disruption not only of the national games here but of the total development of Mindanao."

Palaro host Gov. Imelda Quibran-za-Dimaporo and Lanao del Norte Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo said they were touched by the show of support from key leaders of Lanao del Sur, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and nearby provinces and cities.

No less than President Arroyo ordered the staging of the twice-postponed Palaro.

Umel said the Palaro, which is expected to lure about 6,000 student-athletes, is a vital component in the promotion of the province's "culture for peace so that investors will not hesitate to invest in Mindanao particularly in Lanao del Norte."

Umel said all the facilities at the Mindanao Civic Center such as the rubberized oval, Olympic-standard pool, archery, baseball and football fields, gymnasium, basketball and volleyball courts, the main stadium and media center are well maintained.



Cover-up is the new craze at PSC

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

HERE'S good news, flashed a new text message. The Philippine Sports Commission is up for a revamp.

Thanks and no thanks, I texted back.

Won't I ask when the reshuffle is due?

Not really interested, I replied.

Want to know who owns CRV plate No. WCH 724?

What for? I asked.

It was bought by a PSC staffer, who doesn't even get P30,000 a month, after the Busan Games.

Forget it, I said.

The informer said he has the brand and make of the flashy vehicles owned by PSC staffers, with their corresponding plate numbers.

He added he has an inside track on who would be the first to go in the impending revamp at the sports commission.

***

It was, in truth, not the first tip I'd got on what would be up next at the PSC following the publication of suspected anomalies there.

In fact, names of those who would be purged had been tipped off following the lifestyle check demanded by Bacolod solon Monico Puentevella, who as a former PSC commissioner has obviously seen with his own eyes how the agency has been turned into a money-making machine by certain officials.

Yes, the PSC has a dark history of dubious money-making and assorted corruption perpetrated by sports officials.

This is not the first time we had tangled and crossed swords with members of the PSC hierarchy.

Before the reign of Eric Buhain and his so-called Magnificent 7, there was the group of Butch Tuason, first cousin of the beleaguered First Gentleman, which came under fire due to several suspicious dealings, not only on travel and janitorial matters.

Before Mr. Tuason there was....well, let's cut it or we could again run short of space.

***

Maybe the PSC is cursed? Maybe Philippine sports is itself hopeless?

So you think changing Buhain or whoever at PSC would improve the national sports set-up?

Let me tell you this, friends. The PSC, despite the noble intent of its formulators, can never achieve its original goal.

Nothing is wrong with the agency itself. If you read the bill that created the PSC, you'd readily swear RP sports was in for a win-win thrust.

So you ask: why can't our sports program improve and take off for new heights?

Why do we forever miss the goal? Why can't we hit the winning formula?

Simple. Because the PSC, terribly unlucky, has become a perennial parking lot of political appointees.

A guy doesn't make it as PSC chief purely on his merits. He ascends the PSC throne and have a fun-filled run of the show mainly on, yes, connections.

***

Which could be just fine, because that's how our sports and political life has come to be chronically crafted.

But if only our leaders, from the President down to whoever influence her decisions, could spare Philippine sports for once.

If they, say, would play it straight, honest, right and opt for a trained professional sports manager, not a running dog who would jump, sit or whatever at the snap of the presidential fingers, the Pinoy could be a winner again out there in the Asian field, where he has become the perennial sick man.

Yes, what we need is a sports czar, repeat: a sports czar, he with the power, dedication and knowledge to remold our athletes and regain the winning ways.

And he should be surrounded, not by financing experts who excel in investing (for themselves?), but knowledgeable, tested professional sports managers.

This is being mentioned because all this crying for change, this impending revamp, the so-called new thrust would amount to nothing if we remain stuck in this shameful system.

What's truly sickening here is that people, including the tenants of Malacañang, have been made to believe that the winning sports formula for RP sports is hidden in the bank vaults.

And that the drive for the first Olympic gold cannot get off the block if not pushed by endless fund-raising.

Totally forgotten now is the true, noble Filipino athlete, the likes of Simeon Toribio, Miguel White, Teofilo Yldefonso, who hit the glory trail mainly fueled by a heroic heart.

Yes, heroic heart. This thing, of course, is hardly heard of at the PSC, where fund-raising has become the favorite event.

Correction: with the impending lifestyle check, cover-up is now the new craze at the national sports commission.

Sultan fights for OPBF title Sunday

PHILIPPINE welterweight champion Dondon Sultan challenges reigning Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation 147-lb titlist Hiroshi Watanabe in a 12-round clash on Sunday in Nagoya, Japan.

The 25-year-old Sultan, of SGG Boxing Club, goes into the biggest fight of his life with a record of 8 wins against 2 losses and a draw.

Sultan will fly to Japan on Friday night. He will be accompanied by co-trainer Edito Villamor and Cebuano judge Dioscoro Ramirez, as well as boxers Joseph Villasis and Ariel Austria who will be seeing action in the undercard.

Watanabe, who boasts an 18-2-2 win-loss-draw card with 13 KOs, will be making the second defense of the title he won via a controversial split decision over Iloilo City's Rev Santillan Oct. 14 last year.

In his last fight on May 14, Sultan, from Labason, Zamboanga del Norte, outclassed Hiroyuki Yoshino at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

In the main event, World Boxing Council superbantam king Oscar "Chololo" Larios defends his crown against Japanese Kozo Ishii in a 12-round duel. *Salven L. Lagumbay*



CAPRIATI: Victory in overtime. AFP

Capriati needs 6 hrs to advance

NEW YORK—In a rain-interrupted match that ended more than six hours after it began, sixth-seeded Jennifer Capriati reached the US Open quarterfinals for the third straight year Monday by beating No. 11 Elena Dementieva of Russia, 6-2, 7-5.

French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne, meanwhile, beat Dinara Safina, 6-0, 6-3, in 57 minutes to make the Open's round of eight for the first time.

All four scheduled men's fourth-round matches were postponed because of downpours, but organizers tried to fit in the women's action.

After Henin-Hardenne and Safina, the younger sister of 2000 Open champion Marat Safin, warmed up, tournament referee Brian Earley made them sit while he inspected the court. With the second-seeded Henin-Hardenne urging him to let them play, Earley did.

A total of 69 matches—including ones in the doubles, junior and senior tournaments—were postponed without a shot being hit. The last time an entire day at the Open was rained out was Sept. 4, 1988.

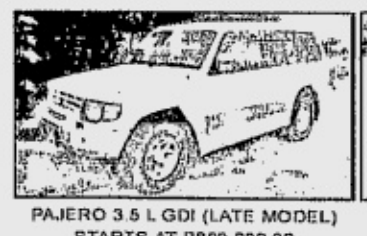
Among the matches put off: No.1 Andre Agassi against unseeded American Taylor Dent, and No. 5 Guillermo Coria against Jonas Bjorkman.

Led by Agassi and No. 2 Roger Federer, all of the top eight seeded men reached the round of 16 at the US Open for the first time since 1981. *AP*

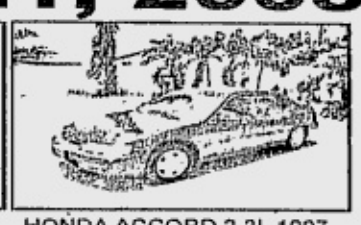
Paragua, Sanchez in strong starts

FILIPINO IMs Mark Paragua and Joseph Sanchez beat Spaniards Gonzalo Llanos and Jesus Justo, respectively, Monday night to be among the leaders at the start of the International de Ajedrez VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea chess tournament in Madrid. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

KHY TRADING
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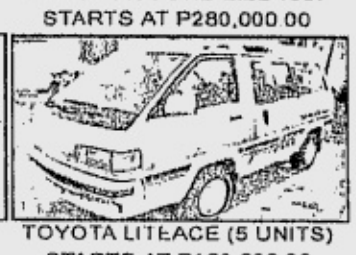
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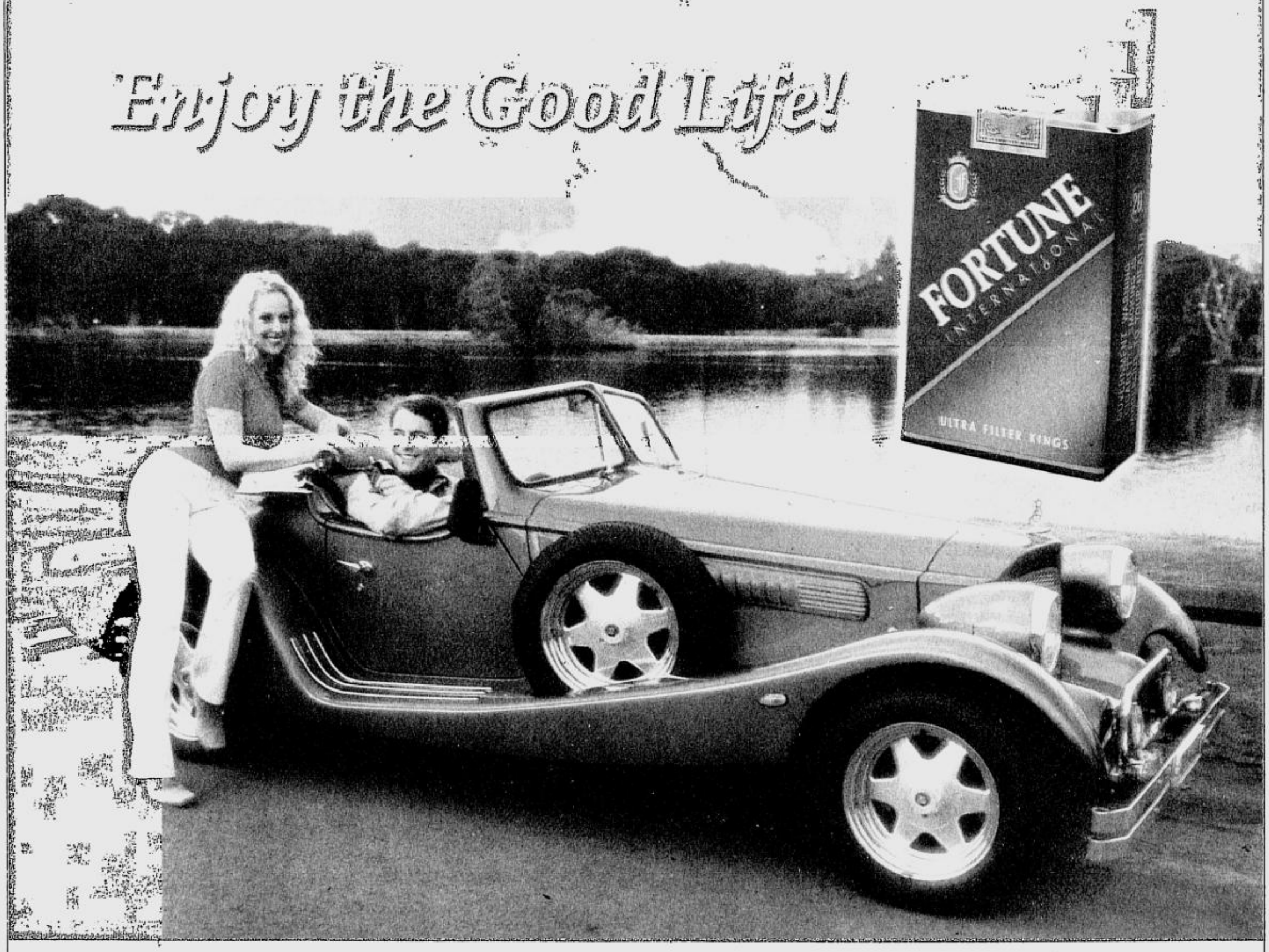
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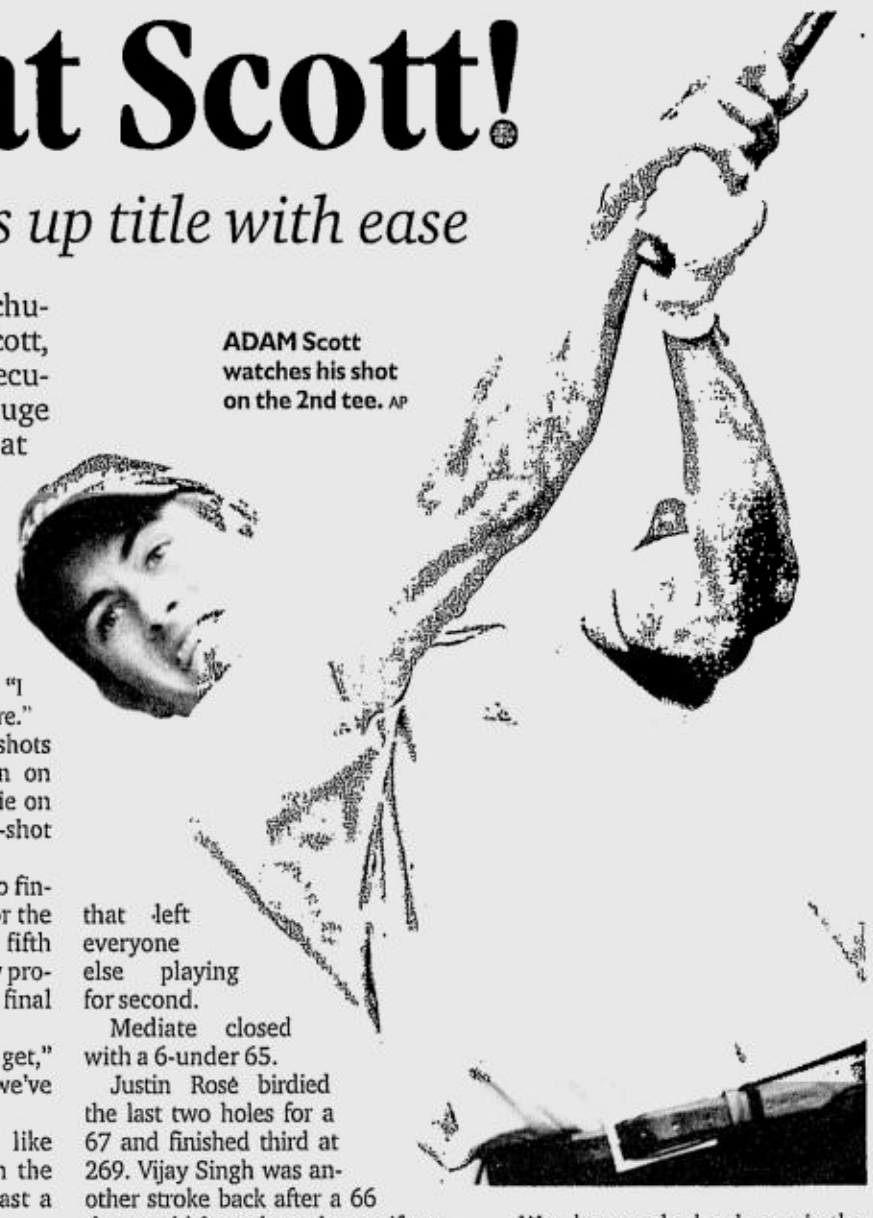
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Great Scott!

Aussie wraps up title with ease

NORTON, Massachusetts—Adam Scott, who had consecutive birdies to open a huge lead and clutch pars that kept anyone from making a serious run, closed with a 5-under 66 on Monday to win the Deutsche Bank Championship.



ADAM Scott watches his shot on the 2nd tee. AP

"Now it seems easy," he said. "I was grinding really hard out there."

Scott led by at least three shots throughout a rainy afternoon on the TPC of Boston, and a birdie on the final hole gave him a four-shot victory over Rocco Mediate.

The 23-year-old Aussie, who finished at 20-under 264, won for the first time on the PGA Tour and fifth time worldwide, all of them by protecting a lead going into the final round.

"He's as good as you can get," Mediate said. "At his age . . . we've got our hands full."

Scott's record is nothing like Tiger Woods, who is 28-2 on the PGA Tour when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead.

The swing, however, is eerily similar, and it carried Scott to a performance over the last three rounds that left everyone else playing for second.

Mediate closed with a 6-under 65.

Justin Rosé birdied the last two holes for a 67 and finished third at 269. Vijay Singh was another stroke back after a 66 that could have been better if not for a slew of putts that he missed.

Scott earned $900,000 and a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour.

Woods never had a chance in the tournament that benefits his foundation. He shot a 67 and finished at 273, tied for seventh. *AP*

Leslie powers Sparks

LOS ANGELES—Lisa Leslie scored 22 points to lead the two-time WNBA champion Los Angeles Sparks past Minnesota 74-64 Monday and into the Western Conference finals for the fifth consecutive year.

The Sparks won the first-round series 2-1 and will play either second-seeded Houston or No. 3 Sacramento. That series is tied 1-1 and Game 3 is Tuesday night.

Tamecka Dixon added 14 points, DeLisha Milton and Nikki Teasley each had 13 and Mwadi Mabika had 12 as all five Sparks' starters scored in double figures for the second consecutive game.

Milton's hot shooting carried over from Saturday night, when she fired 17 points and hauled down 10 rebounds as the Sparks avoided elimination by tying the series.

They blew a 21-point lead and lost the opening game at Minnesota, which is 2-16 all-time against Los Angeles. *AP*

Revelation

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

BUSINESS as usual.

Playing with an intact lineup and an explosive import, Red Bull Barako launched its bid with aplomb last Saturday in the kick-off game of the PBA Reinforced Conference, outclassing Federal Express, 100-92, at the jampacked Easter College gym in Baguio City.

Davonn Harp, surprisingly fit as a fiddle despite a two-month absence, marked his eagerly awaited comeback by combining efforts with hitherto unknown import Ramel "The Rock" Lloyd to spark Red Bull.

The 6-foot-7 Harp, the team's undisputed board leader, scored 16 points and hauled down 13 big rebounds to fill the gap in Red Bull's middle that led to its poor showing in the last two PBA conferences. A tireless player, Harp, 26, is exciting to watch. He is quick for a big man, has great anticipation and scores well on the inside. But he must improve his outside shooting, especially from the freethrow area.

On the other hand, Lloyd, a 6-foot-3 power forward seeing action in the PBA for the first time, debuted in style, pouring six incredible looping shots from the three-point area and complementing it with four spectacular dunks. Originally from New York City but a product of Long Beach University in California, Lloyd totaled a game-high 43 points to emerge the biggest revelation in the play-for-pay league so far.

"This team will always play its best," said coach Yeng Guiao, who piloted the Photokina franchise of George Chua to back-to-back Commissioner's Cup championships in 2001 and 2002. "Our import has a great offensive game, but I think he's not that serious yet as far as playing defense is concerned." Still, Guiao said that "once Lloyd is given the time to know our opponents, that's when I could say we are contenders."

Guiao added that Red Bull's initial success was a team effort, citing not only Lloyd and Harp, but also Jimwell Torion, Nelson Asaytono, Enrico Villanueva, Mick Pennisi, Junthy Valenzuela, Willie Miller, Lordy Tugade, Edmund Reyes and cat-quick Topex Robinson, the team's newest recruit from the PBL. He stressed that the Reinforced field is well-balanced and it's too early to say which team has the edge in this conference for imports below 6-foot-5.

On Terrence Shannon, Lloyd's counterpart in the Express team, Guiao said the Thunder found it very difficult to stop the tall and slippery Express import—at least in the first half of play. "*Masyadong matangkad*," Guiao said. He had earlier questioned Shannon's height, saying the FedEx import appeared to be taller than the 6-5 height ceiling. He said that in order to prevent problems of this nature in the future, there should be a "standard" system for those imports undergoing height measurement. The import being measured should always stand erect (no cheating please) during the process.

***

NOTA BENE. I didn't know that former PSC chair and Manila Mayor Mel Lopez marked his birthday recently, but here's wishing my *kumpadre* many more happy years to come. Like in previous years, Mel celebrated it with children at the Manila Boys and Girls Town, saying his only wish is for the deeper involvement of the private sector in supporting projects aimed at helping indigent kids . . . Jockey Angelito Laguinto is back to form, booting home a winner atop "Kagilagilalas" in a recent race at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. Laguinto said he's grateful to horseowner Hermie Esguerra for giving him another chance.

Highlanders picked to rule Baguio Milo run

FRESH off the staging of its biggest regional qualifying run ever in Metro Manila, the 27th Milo Marathon takes to the rugged, winding roads of Baguio this Sunday for the city's regional elimination race.

Although not expected to lure the same record turnout as in the previous legs, the Baguio qualifier will feature the battle between the lowlanders and the highlanders, who are naturally favored to dominate the race for having trained in the thin air of Baguio City.

More than 2,500 runners, many of them coming from the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan and La Union, are expected to answer the starting gun at exactly 6 a.m.

Members of the national training and pool are also seeing action in the 20-K race.

In last year's race, diminutive Eduardo Buenavista lost to former winner Roy Vence in a sprint finish at Burnham Park.

Buenavista returned the favor when he ran his very first full marathon in the Milo Marathon Grand Finals in Manila a few months later.

Vence, however, opted to run in the Metro Manila race last Sunday and, in the absence of worthy opposition, emerged an easy winner and qualified to the national finals on Oct. 19.

Buenavista and reigning women's champion Christabel Martes are seeded in the finals.

The Baguio qualifier, as well as the 3-K kiddie run and 5-K fun run, will start and finish at Burnham Park. The top three male and female finishers in the 20-K race will advance to the national finals of this event, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, Adidas, PowerBar and the Department of Tourism.



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	4 THE ITALIAN JOB		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 SPY KIDS 3D 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 11:30	4 SINBAD
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4	

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(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PINAY PIE
2	BAD BOYS-2
3 (DOLBY)	A WALKING IN RENO
4 (DTS)	FINDING NEMO

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	PINAY PIE
2 (DTS)	
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SWAT
2	BIGAY HILIG
3 (DTS)	ALIPIN NG ALIW
4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SWAT
2	PINAY PIE
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4	MOTEL
5	SINBAD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Binan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
2	MOTEL
3	RESERVE

Olivarez Los Banos
tel (049) 249.2558

1	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
2	PINAY PIE
3	FINDING NEMO

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	A VIEW FROM THE TOP
2	PINAY PIE
3 (DTS)	FINDING NEMO
4 (DOLBY)	NAKED WEAPON

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MOTEL
2	PINAY PIE
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ALEX & EMMA
2	DARK WATER
3	SPY KIDS-3D
4	PINAY PIE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SWAT
2	PINAY PIE
3 (216HR)	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4	SINBAD

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	PINAY PIE
2	SINBAD
3 (DOLBY)	SWAT
4 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE-2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	RESERVE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SPY KIDS-3D
2	PINAY PIE
3	SWAT
4	LEGALLY BLONDE-2

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SWAT
2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4	PINAY PIE
5	KEKA

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2	PINAY PIE

Araneta
THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	NOON AT NGAYON
2	PINAY PIE
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4 (SDDS)	SWAT
5 (DTS)	SPY KIDS-3D
6	SINBAD
7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2

Araneta FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

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SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

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SM CITY BACOOR
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1	ITALIAN JOB
2	SPY KIDS 3-D
3	S.W.A.T.
4	LEGALLY BLONDE
5	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6	PINAY PIE
7	FINDING NEMO
8	SINBAD

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	PINAY PIE
2	ITALIAN JOB
3	S.W.A.T.
4	VIEW FROM THE TOP
5	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6	NEW BLOOD
7	SPY KIDS 3-D
8	SINBAD
9	LEGALLY BLONDE
10	LXG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SPY KIDS 3-D
2	VISIBLE SECRET
3	NOON AT NGAYON
4	S.W.A.T.
5	SINBAD
6	PINAY PIE
7	FINDING NEMO
8	LEGALLY BLONDE
9	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
10	PINAY PIE
11	LXG
12	ITALIAN JOB

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	S.W.A.T.
3	SINBAD
4	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
5	SPY KIDS 3-D
6	S.W.A.T.
7	ITALIAN JOB
8	LXG
9	PINAY PIE
10	NEW BLOOD
11	VIEW FROM THE TOP
12	PINAY PIE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN (FOR SEAT RESERVATION FOR CALL BOXOFFICE)
2	SINBAD
3	S.W.A.T.
4	LEGALLY BLONDE
5	FINDING NEMO
6	EIGA SAI 2003
7	BAD BOYS 2
8	SPY KIDS 3-D
9	PINAY PIE
10	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
11	ITALIAN JOB
12	NEW BLOOD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	SINBAD
3	NEW BLOOD
4	PINAY PIE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	S.W.A.T.
7	SPY KIDS 3-D
8	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3	S.W.A.T.
4	SINBAD
5	NOON AT NGAYON
6	NEW BLOOD
7	PINAY PIE
8	S.W.A.T.
9	SPY KIDS 3-D
10	ITALIAN JOB

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	S.W.A.T.
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3	ITALIAN JOB
4	SINBAD
5	VIEW FROM THE TOP
6	THE DEBUT
7	PINAY PIE
8	S.W.A.T.

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	THE DEBUT
2	RESERVED
3	PINAY PIE
4	FINDING NEMO
5	SINBAD
6	ITALIAN JOB
7	RESERVED
8	NAKED WEAPON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	S.W.A.T.
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	FINDING NEMO
5	SINBAD
6	PINAY PIE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	SINBAD
2	PINAY PIE
3	S.W.A.T.
4	LEGALLY BLONDE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	S.W.A.T.
2	SPY KIDS 3-D
3	PINAY PIE
4	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	FINDING NEMO
3	PINAY PIE
4	PINAY PIE
5	SINBAD
6	THE DEBUT

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	S.W.A.T.
2	PINAY PIE
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	SINBAD

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	BULLETPROOF MONK
3	PINAY PIE
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED

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18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

LEGALLY BLONDE
11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:05/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00/10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

S.W.A.T.
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

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2 S.W.A.T	5 PINAY PIE
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 ITALIAN JOB	9 SPY KIDS 3D
8 SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS	10 VIEW FROM THE TOP

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Ermita
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1 S.W.A.T
2 SPY KIDS 3D
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
6 PINAY PIE
7 LEGALLY BLONDE 2

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	S.W.A.T.
3	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
5	SPY KIDS 3D
6	PINAY PIE
7	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
8	WWW.XXX.COM

Novaliches
935-3229/31

1	SINBAD--LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
2	ITALIAN JOB
3	THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4	S.W.A.T.
5	SPY KIDS 3D
6	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8	PINAY PIE

Malabon
288-0985
288-2575

1	SINBAD-LEGEND
2	PINAY PIE
3	S.W.A.T.
4	LEGALLY BLONDE 2

Star Mills
(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

1	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
2	ITALIAN JOB
3	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4	PINAY PIE
5	S.W.A.T.
6	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS

Imus
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(046) 875-5858

1	S.W.A.T
2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
4	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5	PINAY PIE
6	SPY KIDS 3D

Sta. Rosa
(049) 837-09-07

1	S.W.A.T.
2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
5	PINAY PIE

Bacolod
(034) 441-0458-59

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	FINDING NEMO
3	PINAY PIE
4	ALEX AND EMMA
5	WAKING UP IN RENO
6	NENA INOSENTE

Iloilo
(033) 336-8070/78

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	VIEW FROM THE TOP
3	PINAY PIE
4	SINBAD--LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
5	WAKING UP IN RENO
6	NAKED WEAPON

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

DID YOU KNOW...

Amy Austria was seen with a female date last Sunday at the Bed bar in Malate. The eyewitness saw the actress and her date were occasionally holding hands. Amy, who is now on the GMA 7 telenovela "Habang Kapiling Ka," was in a white polo shirt while her date was in maroon.

Boob tube boo-boos

From page A28

(That's so—inspiring!)

***

Host: Do you think you were falsely accused by your current boyfriend's ex-wife?

Guest: Whether or not, *hindi na importante yon. Hintayin na lang natin ang Diyos ang magsistensya!*

(*Ay, sistensya*!)

***

Host: Is there anything you'd like to ask your sweetheart now?

Male star: What I want to ask her is, "Do I make you proud?"

Host: And what's your answer to him?

Female star: "Yes, I do!"

(That's so—touching!)

***

Host: Tell us more about your role in your launching movie.

Guest: Well, I'm in the episode, the role of Kris, which is a travel documentary!

(*Ano raw*?!)

US Film people fight back

ASIA isn't the only place where movie piracy has been drastically affecting the economics of filmmaking. The movie industry of the United States is reeling from the pirates' onslaught, to the tune of $3.5 billion a year.

No longer able to bear this constant hemorrhaging of funds, US film people have decided to fight back with a concerted anti-piracy campaign on television and in movie theaters.

The campaign is built around an institutional spot in which producers stress that film piracy is thievery, and thus shouldn't be countenanced or resorted to by fair-minded and honest individuals.

But the main thrust of the campaign is worker-oriented. Aside from stars pleading with their fans not to resort to piracy, numerous film workers are featured.

They point out that piracy leads to losses, which result in fewer movies being bankrolled, which in turn means fewer jobs for movie workers, and bad times for themselves and their families.

It is hoped that this personal approach will shame would-be pirates into deciding to pay for their entertainment. If it works, perhaps Filipino movie producers may want to come up with their own versions of this worker-level appeal.

It had better work, because industry leaders in the States estimate that, each and every day, pirates download movies 500,000 times from the 'Net!

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And this time, she's going to be at
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Bigger. Bolder. Blonder.
Reese WITHERSPOON
LEGALLY blonde 2
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Special Thanks To

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Aug. 5 to Sept. 2, 2003 Greenbelt Cinemas, Ayala Center

Old Malate favorite becomes New Episode

EVEN old haunts, however beloved, need a face lift. Episode, a favorite hang-out for soaking up the bohemian Malate ambiance, now recharges the famous district's nightlife with a fresher, more sophisticated look.

Now called New Episode 2, or NEP2, the restaurant-bar has sleeker, more cosmopolitan interiors by Dobie Aranda, replacing the amiable, Mediterranean character of the old restaurant with the elegance and modern-minimalist slickness of huge mirrors and a spacious, uncultured layout.

Everything that regulars love about the old place is still there: the cozy, relaxing ambiance, the live music, the good food.

Music, always at the heart of the Episode experience, now has more variety. Weekdays are still acoustic guitar nights, with the familiar engaging music of Romy Jorolan, among others, but Saturdays are for partying, with thumping house music by experts DJs.

For those who love to sing and play it cool, there's the piano bar. Guests are encouraged to tinkle the ivories to play for friends or simply for themselves.

Known for its good food, the restaurant is also taking pains to come up with new gustatory delights. An inventive menu of Asian-fusion specialties present a different palate-pleasing experience.

NEP2 opens its doors with a grand party on Sept. 10, featuring entertainers such as Jimmy Bondoc, Richard Merk, Mae Romero, Leonard Belo, Divo, Jong Cuenco and a host of surprise guest performers.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 2	PINAY PIE
Ali 3	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
Ali 4	SWAT
Ali 5	SPY KIDS 3
Ali 6	SINBAD
Ali 7	LEGALLY BLONDE

ARANETA COLISEUM

SEPT 3	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES : ADMU VS. UST
SEPT 6	UAAP CHEERING COMPETITION
SEPT 10	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 11	UAAP GAMES: UST VS. UE
SEPT 12	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

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DAVID SHEEHAN, CBS-TV
"THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF THE SUMMER THAT WILL HAVE THE WHOLE FAMILY CHEERING. THIS IS ONE WILD RIDE!" JEFFREY K. HOWARD, ABC NEWS LAS VEGAS
"GREAT ENTERTAINMENT AIMED RIGHT AT THE KID IN EVERY ONE OF US!" CLAY SMITH, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD


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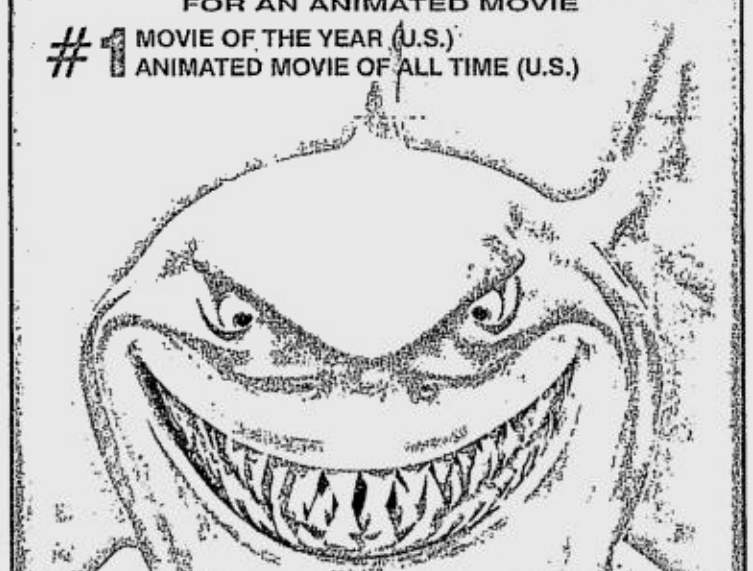
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CINEMA 1 S.W.A.T. 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 P13
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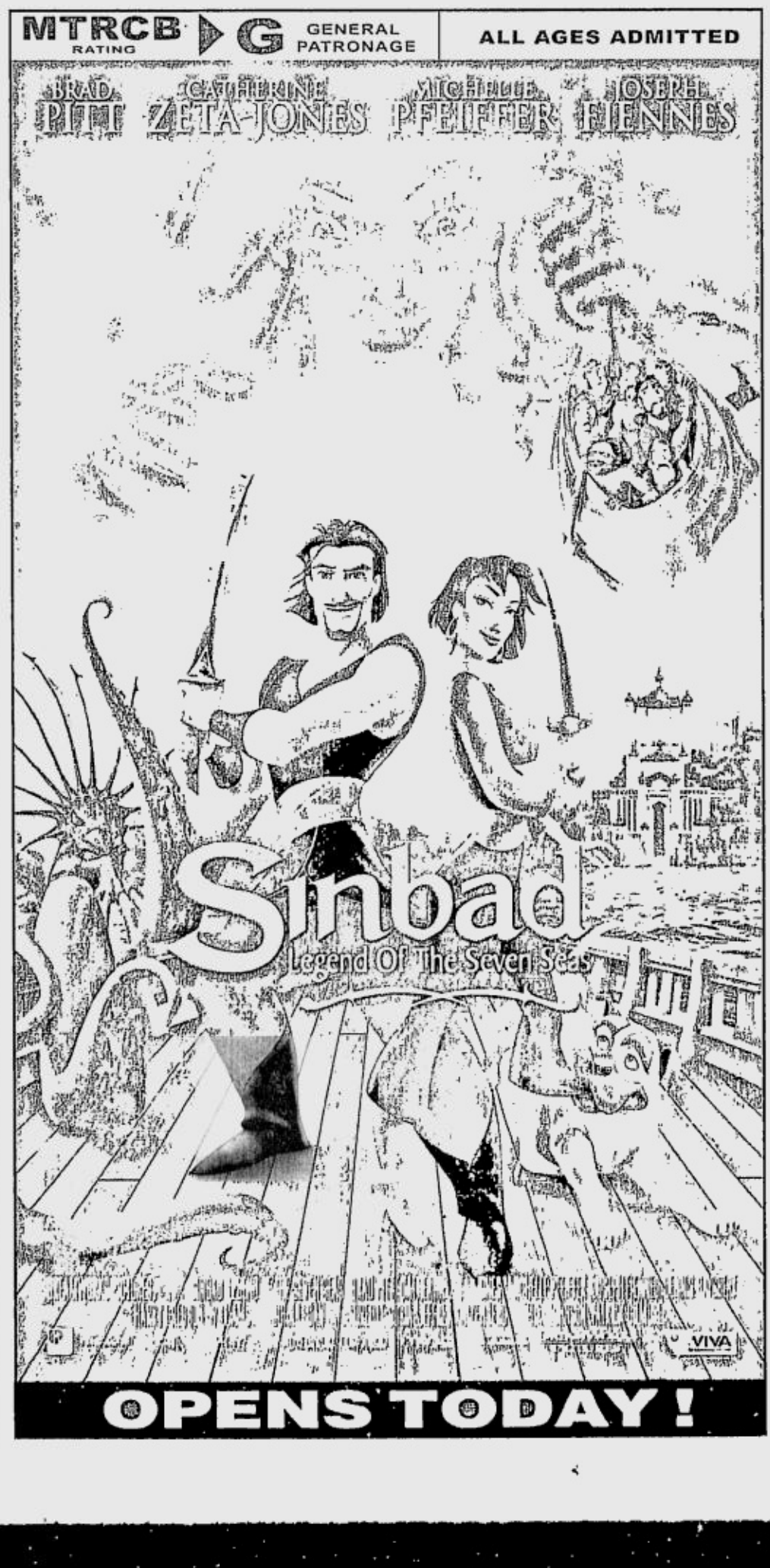
OPENS SEPTEMBER 10 MAGIC 89.9


POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN PG13 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00	S.W.A.T. PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SINBAD GP 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
PINAY PIE PG13 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40	SPY KIDS 3D GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	LEGALLY BLONDE 2 GP 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	NENA INOCENTE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	PINAY PIE
B	SEX DRIVE
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78 51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	TALK TO HER
CINEMA-3	LXG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWAT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-6	BIGAY HULIG
CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	SINBAD
CINEMA-14	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-15	PINAY PIE

LORES

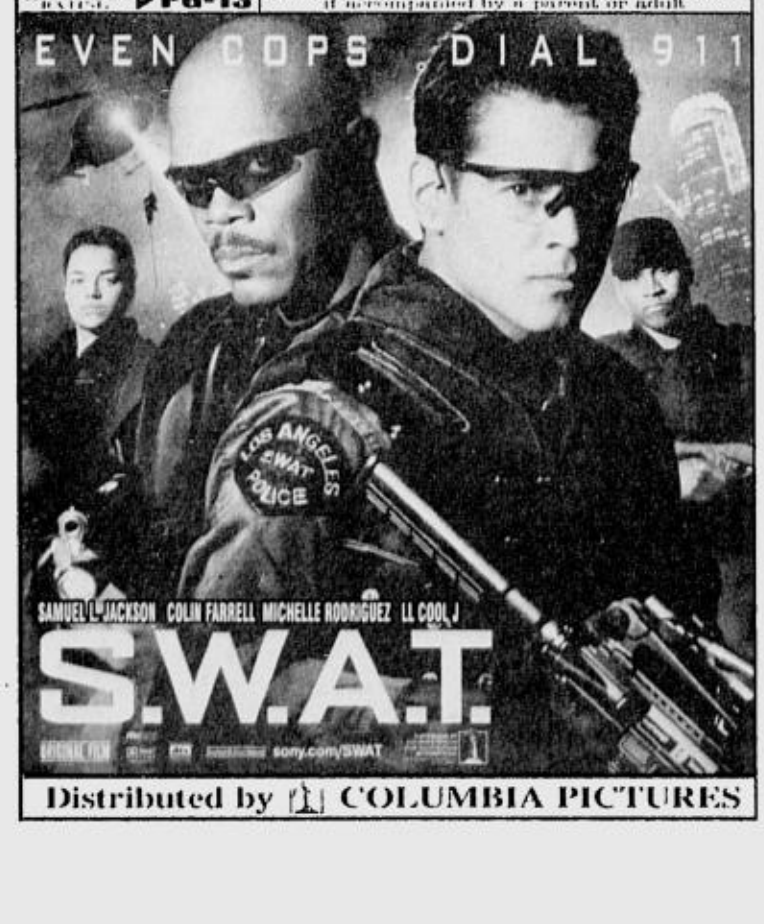
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	NAKED WEAPON
CINEMA-4	VIEW FROM THE TOP

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Lea: I'll cancel the wedding if...

By Marinel R. Cruz

"BEING pregnant is a wrong reason to get married," said international actress and singer Lea Salonga, who is marrying her boyfriend Robert Chien in January 2004. "I would probably cancel the wedding if I get pregnant before January comes."

Lea was reacting to rumors that she is getting married because she is already pregnant with Robert's child.

Lea and Robert, who specializes in customer relations technology, are to tie the knot at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles on Jan. 6.

During a press lunch last Monday at the Podium in Ortigas Center, Lea said she doesn't know yet where she and Robert will spend their honeymoon, but she dreams of "sipping beer and lying on a hammock with my husband while watching the sun set on a beach in Hawaii."

She also revealed that she will not go with the Filipino tradition of letting the groom foot the bill. She said she and Robert have decided to equally share the wedding expenses.

"We decided on this long ago," Lea said. "Making the arrangements for a wedding is not only tedious but is also very very expensive.

"I'm wondering how some people can even afford to get married twice, and in Elizabeth Taylor's case, eight times," said the award-winning actress.

Lea said they did not even hire a professional wedding coordinator, "because some already cost six digits for a few consultations." Instead, she asked her best friend Bong Lirio to take charge of planning the wedding.

"Sometimes, since most wedding coordinators don't personally know the couple, what comes out is his vision of a wedding, and not the couple's," she pointed out. "Our wedding will be a production put together by a group of people that have all been a part of our lives."

Lea describes Robert as the "amalgamation of everything that I have loved about my past partners. He has a great sense of humor, is God-fearing, thoughtful, respectful and very generous with his feelings."



HAWAIAAN HONEYMOON. Lea and Robert (left), with director Bobby Garcia.

The couple met two years ago during the Los Angeles run of the "Flower Drum Song," where she played Mei-Li, a young refugee from Communist China who struggles to hold on to traditional homeland beliefs when she lives in America.

Lea recalled that Robert proposed marriage to her on July 28, 2002, "with lots of flowers and candles, microphones and speakers, and a little pillow for him to kneel on."

The wedding will be aired as a special on ABS-CBN a few weeks after the ceremony. The special will include a feature on the day Robert proposed to her, as well as her bridal shower and Robert's stag party in Las Vegas.

Theater director Bobby Garcia is the TV director for the wedding.

Lea said they plan to live in Robert's house in LA and to start having kids a year after the wedding. She also intends to audition for TV and film when the pilot season in Hollywood begins in May 2004.

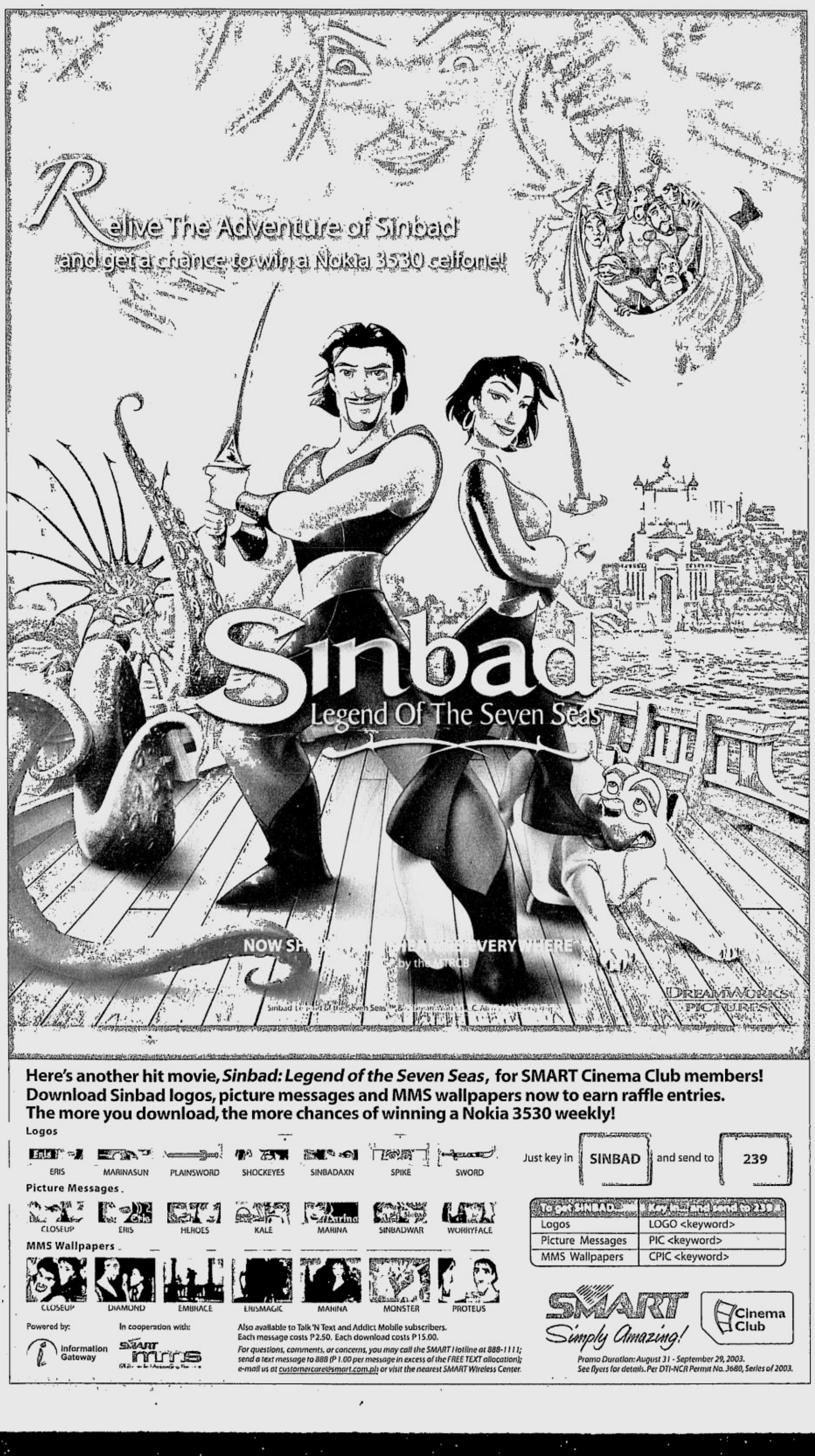
"We have too many things on our plates right now," said Lea, "like my PICC concert on Sept. 12 and 13."

The "Songs From Home" concert at the PICC will also feature Ariel Rivera, Ogie Alcasid and the 50-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. Her brother Gerard Salonga is the musical director.

"It will be a fun night for me, singing songs that I've always wanted to sing and songs that I never thought I would get to sing," Lea said of the concert repertoire.

"I'm busy learning new OPM songs," she said. "I don't want to sing too many songs that' I've already done before."

Garcia will also direct the one-night concert.



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Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

WE overheard some sexy starlets trying to express themselves in English and Taglish on TV recently, and we got ourselves ready for a bountiful harvest of booboos. Happily, they did not disappoint:

Host: Some people are accusing your group of imitating another sexy dance group. Your reaction?

Guest: No way, not true. No, *talaga*, we're not following them, we're just compared with them!

(Ah, please translate?)

***

Host: So, how would you describe yourselves? What makes you unique among all of the other sexy groups cropping up these days?

Guest: Unique *talaga kami, para kaming binuong bagong* Spicy Girls!

(*Ay*, Spicy Girls!)

***

Host: And you're all coming out in a movie? Tell us about it. Is it sexy, drama, comedy, horror—?

Guest: Actually, it's a trilogy story.

(Do tell!)

***

Host: What about your sexy dance show, I hear some people want it banned?

Guest: Yes, *pero* they're wrong. *Hindi po malaswa ang* show *namin, kaya di pa siya dapat i-van*!

(Vravo!)

***

Host: Is it true that you are "on" with a popular male star?

Guest: I admit, *close kami*, pero *friends lang*. He didn't courted me *talaga*.

(Ok, we believe you!)

***

Host: For many months, your career was down. How were you able to recover?

Guest: Well, day by day *talaga*. Refusing to remain down, I picking up the pieces and along the way!

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Gov't sets more borrowings next week

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury yesterday said it would sell next week at least P6 billion worth of 5- and 7-year promissory notes instead of a four-year bond issue to shift the market's appetite to debt papers whose cost is not under too much pressure.

The government had to allow the cost of its 3-year funds to go up by more than 0.6 percentage point after accepting P2.5 billion worth of offers in yesterday's auction.

The coupon rate for the three-year bonds reached 10.125 percent yesterday from 9.5 percent in June, the last time the three-year retail bonds were sold. Last month's auction of 3-year bonds were rejected in full as it would have raised the three-year rate by 37.5 basis points.

Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa said the auction committee decided to accept some of the bids for the 3-year bonds because of the huge volume, which reached 8.39 billion.

Traders, however, said the government's decision to accept the bids indicated that its cash position was not as strong as it would like the market to believe.

"We decided to issue promissory notes because of the bigger demand and to replace some of the auctions we have rejected," the treasury official said.

The Treasury said it has the authority from Malacañang and the central bank's Monetary Board to issue as much as P100 billion worth of promissory notes.

Next week's auction of promissory notes will be the third for the year. The Treasury sold similar debt papers in April worth P5.75 billion and again in May worth P8.25 billion.

Sold to only 19 lenders, the buyers of the promissory notes are exempt from the 20-percent withholding tax but liable to pay income tax.

INDICATORS

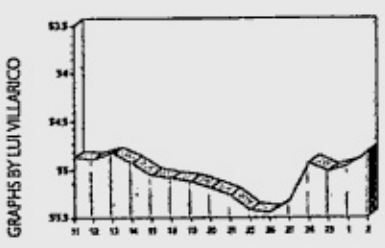
CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.825=$1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2003

¥ 116.86=$1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2003

GOLD: $378.00-378.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 2, 2003



STOCK MARKET

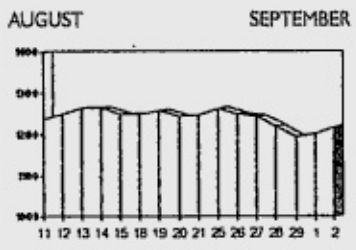
Stocks up 1.35%

STOCKS rose 1.35 percent yesterday, led by PLDT, but analysts doubted the upward trend would be sustained given domestic uncertainties.

The main index closed 16.18 points higher at 1,218.10 points but turnover dropped to P321.3 million from Monday's P350.4 million.

The index is up 19.61 percent this year.

"Investors are still in a bargain-hunting mood given that the market is still near the 1,200 support level. However, investors remain cautious given the political uncertainty," said BPI Securities stocks analyst Roberto Cano. *Reuters*



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Aboitiz sues Garcia family over share-swap deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

A LEGAL squabble has erupted between the Aboitiz and Garcia families of Cebu over their interests in power distributor Visayan Electric Co., whose holding company entered into a share-swap deal that paved the way for the backdoor listing of Vivant Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. said it had filed with the Regional Trial Court of Cebu a lawsuit seeking P613 million in damages, a reversal of the share-swap transaction and the dissolution of Hijos de F. Escaño Inc., a privately held company whose principal asset is its controlling stake in Veco.

The Aboitiz family said the deal was hatched at the expense and without the consent of Hijos' minority stockholders like itself.

AEV owns about 46 percent of Hijos and approximately 30 percent of Veco, giving the Aboitiz' holding firm a beneficial ownership of 54.5 percent in Veco.

AEV president Jon Ramon Aboitiz, AEV chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz and AEV's wholly owned subsidiary Aboitiz Power Corp. joined in the filing of the lawsuit against Vivant, Veco and the Garcias.

The complaint alleged that the share-swap transaction signed by Hijos with Vivant last April 29 had "misappropriated," from both the minority shareholders of Hijos such as AEV/APC, and from Hijos itself, value in the amount of about P170 million.

The questioned transaction was essentially a swap of about 2.09 million shares of Veco owned by Hijos—which constituted about 30 percent of Veco's outstanding stock—in exchange for Vivant shares.

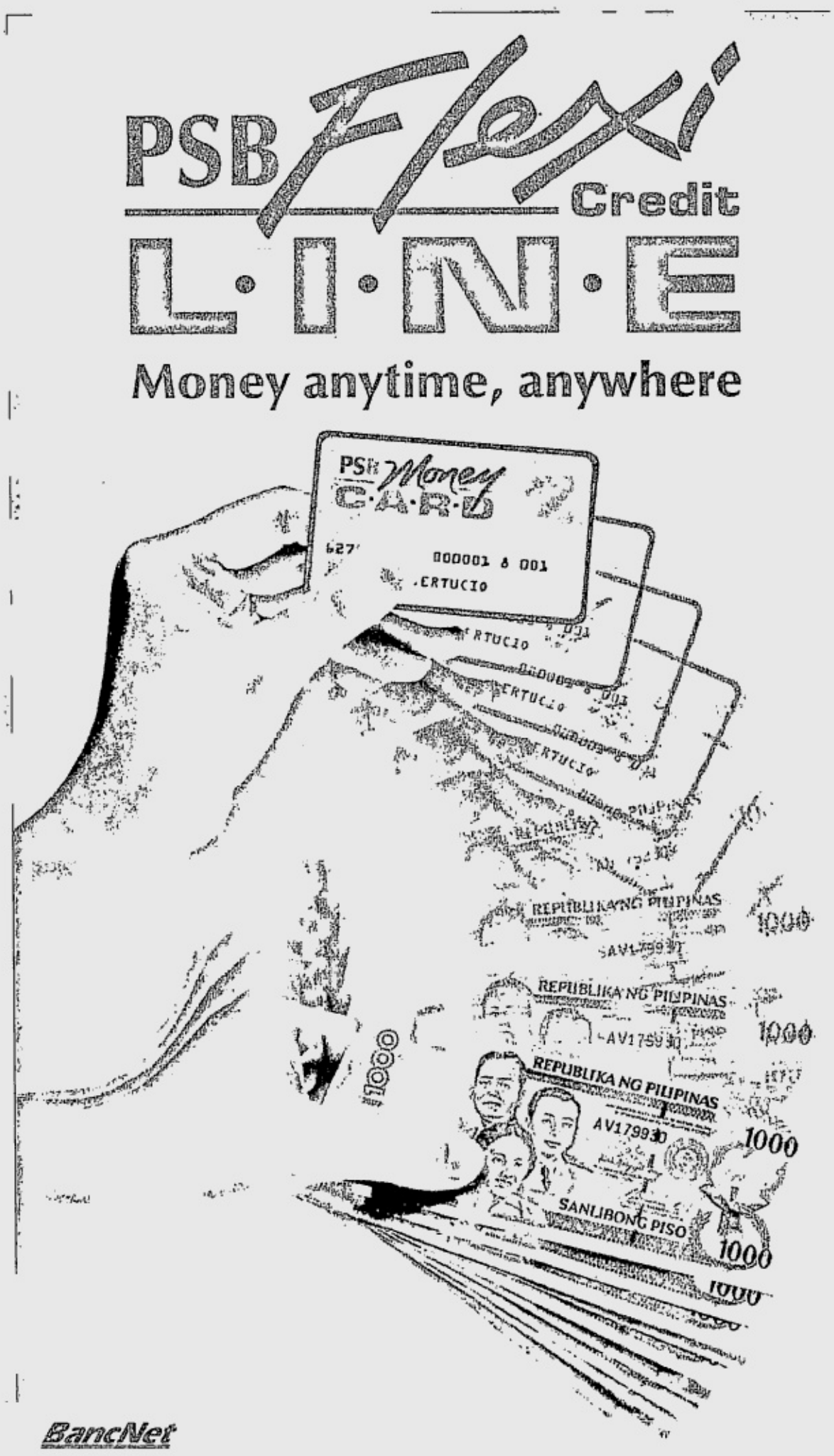
"The Veco shares were traded at book value, whereas the Vivant shares were valued at a premium to its book value," AEV assistant corporate secretary Elsa Divinagracia said.

"The effect of these valuations was to reduce the holdings of the minority shareholders, and subsequently lower AEV/APC's beneficial ownership, in VECO," she stressed.

She noted that despite being a publicly listed corporation, Vivant was almost completely owned, directly and beneficially, by the Garcia family while Hijos was majority owned by the same family through Vivant.

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A private misunderstanding

THE RESIGNATION of General Reyes last Friday came as a shock but it was not politically motivated as some people surmise. It was simply a misunderstanding. The President sent him a letter marked PRIVATE, and he immediately jumped to the conclusion that he was about to be demoted, so he



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Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,175,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	Please Call	-
Camp John Hay	200,000	220,000
Canlubang	Please Call	500,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"		180,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,200,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	50,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	230,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	180,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	600,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	125,000	140,000
Valley Golf	Please Call	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	6,800,000

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PSALM Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR RECEIPT OF THE PRELIMINARY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM WITH RESPECT TO THE PRIVATIZATION OF THE GENERATION ASSETS OF THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") invites interested parties to register their interest in receiving a preliminary information memorandum (the "*Information Memorandum*") on the generation plants (the "*Assets*") of the National Power Corporation which are to be privatized in accordance with Republic Act 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" PSALM shall provide the Information Memorandum to interested parties who submit a written expression of interest ("*EOI*")

The EOI must contain the full company name, address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address and the name of the principal contact of the interested party. The EOI must be submitted at the following address.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
Attention: Edgardo del Fonso, President and CEO
2nd Floor, SGV II Building Ayala Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1200

Interested parties shall pay PSALM a non-refundable fee for the Information Memorandum in the amount of Five Hundred U.S Dollars (US$ 500 00).

Clarifications and inquiries may be directed to Mr Froilan A. Tampinco, Vice-President, Asset Valuation and Disposal at the above address or at telephone number (632) 893-8202, fax (632) 840-5341 and e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph

This public notice does not constitute a solicitation of bids for any aspect of the privatization of the Assets. It does not start the sale process of any of the Assets, nor does it purport to be a call for such sale process. Invitations to bid for the Assets will be published in due course

VINCENT S. PEREZ, JR.
Secretary of Energy

Chairman, Privatization Bidding and Awards Committee

September 3, 2003

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

resigned. Actually, it was an invitation to her daughter's birthday party. Unnerved by this turn of events, the President did not know what to do, so she decided to sit on defense.

After Citibank was robbed last week, a memo was sent to HSBC, Standard Chartered, and Bank of America telling them to beef up their security. Local banks were told that they were unlikely targets as nobody in his right mind would want to steal pesos.

Three men were playing golf but were moving very slowly much to the annoyance of the group behind. They complained to the green keeper, who informed them that they were firemen who had lost their sight putting out the fire in the Clubhouse. The Pastor said he would say a special prayer for them. The Ophthalmologist said he would try to make glasses or contact lenses to help them see. The Politician asked, "Why couldn't they play at night?"

I came across some quatrains written by Nostradamus 400 years ago, forewarning about the proximity of the red planet in 2003. I translated them from ancient French so the poetry may not be quite perfect.

Here is a message from Nostradamus
Found in the top of his pajamas.
The god of war, the planet Mars
Very close to earth would pass.
With death and chaos in its wake
Many lives, its toll would take.
Lots of people blown to bits
Others killed by missile hits.
A man named BUSH will first attack
A smallish country called Iraq.
And after that, his master plan
Is to destroy the nukes in Teheran.
Then he will make a mistake, I fear
By going to war with North Korea.
Mushroom clouds marks man's insanity
And won't leave mushroom for humanity.
The animals will sing in chorus
Bring back the peaceful dinosaurus.

* * *

LAST week is one that most people will want to forget particularly Thursday and Friday, when the market fell sharply while all other markets were making highs. I wrote last week that the degree of risk, now called the Fear Factor, was 28. This was a typing error on my part. It was 58, but by the close on Friday, it had dropped to only 5. So I wrote to subscribers that providing nothing dreadful happened over the weekend, a rally was on the cards.

In order for the rally to be sustainable, several conditions have to be fulfilled. First, the Phisix should close at or near its high. It did this on Tuesday, up 16 points. Secondly, individual stocks should close at the top and this occurred in most cases. Lastly, turnover, excluding block sales and cross sales, should increase. This did not happen because Wall Street was closed for Labor Day but turnover should increase tomorrow. Investors, who dived into the market on Monday, have certainly come to no harm as the index has risen 25 points in two days. The real test will be today, when turnover picks up. I will stop indicating the Fear Factor because several subscribers feel that this information should be for them alone.

Turning to the economic news, there are reports that the government will miss its deficit target for August, the first time since March. It is rumored that the government overspent by P3 billion and under-collected P700 million from the Bureau of Customs. If so, all the good work of the past three months will be undone.

Far more serious is an unconfirmed, but probably accurate statement, that next year the government will need to raise $6 billion. And they were talking about reducing the $4-billion deficit for this year. Of this huge amount, $2 billion is for Napocor, which has a voracious appetite for debt. As nobody wants to lend such an amount to them, the government has had to take responsibility for the loan.

Approximately, $1 billion must be raised this year, which is bad news for holders of dollar-denominated Philippine bonds. Of the remaining $5 billion, 70 percent will be raised hopefully from local lenders, which means the banks. In order to entice them away from the 6.75 percent, they can get overnight on any amount, interest rates will have to go up. The banks tried to push up the rate on the benchmark 91-day bill from 5.22 percent to 5.78 percent on Monday but the government rejected all bids for P9.5 billion worth of bills. They can afford to do this for the time being because they sold P80 billion of 3-year and 5-year treasury bonds, with a little help from me.

However, eventually they will have to raise rates, if only to defend the peso and this will be bad for all Filipino companies with large domestic debt. Those with large foreign debt are being hurt by foreign exchange losses. The end result will be to slow down the economy and depress property prices because mortgage rates will rise. So property companies, and the banks, which own large non-performing property assets, are the ones who will suffer the most.

Wall Street has been going great guns, with the DOW at a 14-month high and the Nasdaq at a 16-month high. The economic data have all been good. Personal income rose by 0.2 percent but spending increased by 0.8 percent, due in part to the tax rebates. GDP for the second quarter was revised upwards from 2.4 percent to 2.9 percent and analysts are now looking for 4 percent in the fourth quarter. Manufacturing is increasing at last and the labor market is stabilizing. Orders for tech equipment rose 10 percent, year on year, and there have been bullish guidance from DELL, HEWLETT-PACKARD and INTEL. European and Asian markets have all been hitting highs for the past 12 months and we have been left far behind. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 2, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	8,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18	17.75	18	45,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41	748,000
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	240
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	33	32	33	164,300
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	29	28	28	109,900
Philippine National Bank	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	11,300
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	17,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	18,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1620	1625	1620	1625	150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	297,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1180	1180	1180	1180	1,450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.75	5,000
Diversified Fin. Network	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	1,970,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	1	1	0.74	0.74	60,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	635	655	635	650	34,310
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.045	0.046	12,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	12,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.55	0.58	0.55	0.58	2,190,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	550	565	550	565	149,240
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	580,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	1,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	180,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	255,000
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.88	1.9	1,338,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	15,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	2,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	320,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	48,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	687,500
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	220,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	80,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54	55	77,200
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	19,800
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	6	571,000
Vitarich Corp	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.25	2,351,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	2,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.64	1.7	37,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.55	14,820,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	60,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17	17	16.75	17	637,000
Global Equities Inc	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.115	70,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	64,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.88	2,340,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
Music Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	300,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.235	800,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.25	0.25	2,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION& TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	50,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	2,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	940,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	7.5	7.5	20,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.25	24.25	24	24	150,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	30,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	12,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	6	5.8	6	4,657,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	2,320,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	12,446,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	6,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	120,000

Aboitiz sues Garcia . . .

From page B1

Vivant Corp., formerly PhilStar.com, invested in Veco by acquiring shares from Veco shareholders Hijos, JEG Development Corp., MAI-I Resources Corp. and the Garcias.

"This transaction was approved and implemented by the defendants/majority Garcia directors despite objections of the minority shareholders of Hijos, and despite months of repeated requests and demands by the minority shareholders for the majority Garcia directors to reverse the transaction," Divinagracia said.

DISCLOSURES

CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Sept. 25 to Feb. 12.

***

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought over 2.8 million of its own shares at P1.30 per share.

***

EDMUNDO Varona is the independent director of Manila Electric Co.

***

PHILIPPINE Telegraph and Telephone Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Oct. 31 to Nov. 28.

***

ROXAS Holdings Inc. bought 7.5 million of its own shares at P1 per share.

***

VICENTE Villa Canoneo was appointed compliance officer of Ever Gotesco Resources and Holdings Inc.

***

POCHOLO dela Peña was appointed compliance officer of Gotesco Land Inc.

***

LMG Chemicals Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Sept. 26 to Feb. 13. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

September 02, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 2-Sep-03	MART1 1-Sep-03
1 Month	6.2179	6.0804
3 Months	6.3867	6.3446
6 Months	6.8133	6.7196
1 Year	8.3933	8.3446
2 Years	9.8135	9.8033
3 Years	10.4567	10.47
4 Years	10.8	10.7833
5 Years	11.1417	11.1571
7 Years	11.6308	11.615
10 Years	11.9267	11.9233
20 Years	12.2617	12.2317
25 Years	12.4983	12.5117

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

CURRENCIES

September 2, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.91000091	1.000000	54.947000
Japan	Yen	0.007781	0.008551	0.469900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.43589	1.577900	86.700900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.11668	0.128220	7.045300
Switzerland	Franc	0.650279	0.714592	39.264700
Canada	Dollar	0.656567	0.721501	39.644300
Singapore	Dollar	0.519585	0.570972	31.373200
Australia	Dollar	0.589226	0.647501	35.578200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.413796	2.652520	145.748000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.242674	0.266674	14.652900
Brunei	Dollar	0.518105	0.569346	31.283900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022152	0.024343	1.337600
UAE	Dirham	0.247794	0.272301	14.962100
Euro	Euro	1	1.098900	60.381300
Argentina	Peso	0.308475	0.338983	18.626100
Brazil	REAL	0.307225	0.337610	18.550700
Denmark	Kroner	0.134627	0.147942	8.129000
India	Rupee	0.019878	0.021844	1.200300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.239506	0.263193	14.461700
Mexico	Peso	0.08245	0.090604	4.978400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.52589	0.577901	31.753900
Norway	Kroner	0.12128	0.133275	7.323100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015812	0.017376	0.954800
Korea	Won	0.000775	0.000852	0.046800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026726	0.029369	1.613700

Pidal pushers

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

IN HIS talk show last week, Channel 2 host "Dong" Puno asked a question, instantly denied, whether it was true that messenger-now-celebrity story teller Eugenio Mahusay Jr. first sought the help of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. before burrowing himself into the camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Now we think we know why Puno, who said he received the text inquiry, popped the surprise question.

In his retraction statement submitted to the Senate yesterday, Mahusay said it was his employer Alex Carlos and Allan Dy—the latter is said to be a disgruntled Lakas/GMA supporter now allied with Guingona—who paved his entry into the Lacson camp.

But before that, Dy, who is from Butuan, apparently first tried to sell the Pidal story to Guingona after being rebuffed in his and Carlos' earlier expedition to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel.

A spokesperson for Guingona said the vice president vaguely remembered meeting Carlos and Dy and that the two had tried to peddle the Pidal tale but that Guingona instead advised the two to bring it up to former President Aquino.

Meanwhile, former Cory Aquino spokesperson Rene A.V. Saguisag took pains to distance himself and his law office from Lacson, whom he is suing for alleged human rights atrocities, by saying his associate, Julie Ann Dumlao, merely notarized the first Mahusay affidavit.

Quite an efficient and hardworking notary public, this Dumlao, considering that she notarized the now disowned statement with her even going to the Lacson office in Makati on a Monday, instead of the client normally going to the lawyer.

As yesterday's circus at the Senate now shows, not only did the messenger-tattler admitted weaving fictional elements into his vengeful story, Lacson media spinners Angelito Banayo and Ermin Garcia, apparently even, to borrow a British term, "sexed up" the tale by lacing it up with titillating pictures.

Saguisag is now taking pains to tell friends and colleagues that he saw Mahusay for the first and last time only after Lacson had delivered his "Incredible Hulk" speech and that his questions (as well as those of Lacson lawyers Jose Flaminiano, ex-Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero, Jay Flaminiano and Felix Carao, Saguisag's law partner) to the messenger-tattler were merely to size up his credibility.

"I assumed that Ping, being trained in police investigative work, took care of that (fact-checking)," Saguisag said.

Asked if their bank has a Jose Pidal account as alleged by Lacson, a bank president, who pleaded not to be identified, said, "I will try to stop myself from throwing up" before proceeding to fling unmentionables about the Senate and the gentleman from Cavite and how certain clowns have messed up this country.

If you subscribe to the theory of Lacson allies Pimentel and Sen. Robert Jaworski, the charitable view on this brouhaha is that PING now stands for Panfilo Is Naturally Gullible, for having been "electrocuted" (a victim of a

COCKTALES/ B5

Peso recovers to 54.825 to a dollar

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO yesterday closed 13.5 centavos higher at 54.825 to a dollar from P54.96 the previous day, making it the best-performing currency in the region.

The foreign exchange market, according to a treasury official from a foreign bank, was still looking at a range of P54.80 to P55.30 to $1 in the coming days, depending on how political events would unfold.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that once the political uncertainties have waned, the peso should stabilize although he had given up on hitting a P52:$1 average this year.

Buenaventura said the peso was paying a premium for the political jitters, which should not be the case as economic fundamentals remained sound.

A trader said the Philippines was paying a political risk premium of P12-P15 to a dollar because of unending political controversies.

Check out our rates on your peso & dollar deposits. Interest rates as of September 3, 2003.

PESO TIME DEPOSIT	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days
₱10,000 - ₱100,000	3.625%	3.875%	4.125%
₱100,001 - ₱500,000	4.375%	4.625%	4.875%
₱500,001 - ₱5,000,000	6.125%	6.375%	6.625%
₱5,000,001 and above	6.375%	6.625%	6.875%

DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.250%	1.250%	1.250%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.500%	2.500%	2.500%
$ 500,001 and above	2.875%	2.875%	2.875%

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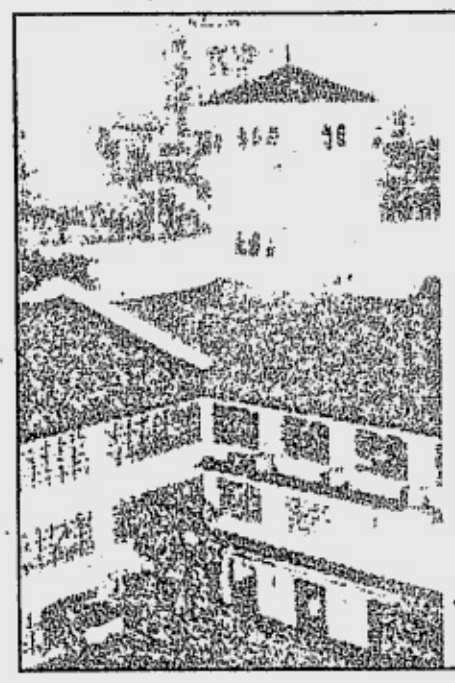
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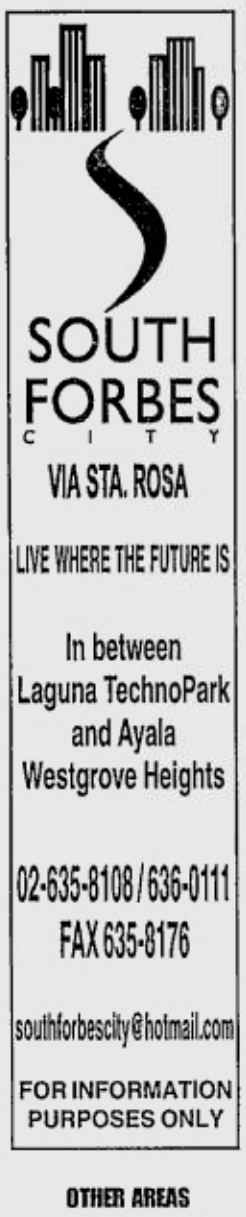
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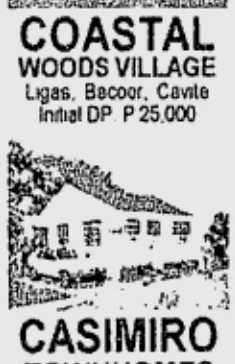


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This is to notify the public that **LBK SKILLS PROVIDERS CORP.** with office address at 96 New York St. Cubao, Quezon City was a corporation duly registered with Securities & Exchange Commission and in the process of applying license with POEA with the following incorporators and officers:

Getulio Antonio B. Bote III	- Chairman/President
Virginia L. Bote	- Co-Chairman
Getulio Juan B. Bote V	- Operation Manager
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Cristina delas Armas Koshimizu	- Director

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NATION PAWNSHOP, INC., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of Mar '03 on Sept. 22, '03 10am, Zamora & Sons-Auctioneer - 8/06/03

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Notice of Loss

Notice is hereby given that the Phil. Equity Fund Certificate No. 00000604 under the name of Richard Benson Kawson Co was reported lost.

(PDI – Aug. 20, 27 & Sept. 3, 2003)

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The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Design Build 2003 are working together to come out with a very special design and construction supplement - - featuring the 4 specialized events of the expo namely, Real Estate & Home Fair, Disenyo, Build Show and Construction Philippines.

Advertisers who wish to take part in this supplement are entitled to full color advertising with NO SURCHARGE and reasonable rates for Metro Manila circulation (tabloid size)

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FOCUS ON MID-STREAM SECTOR

PNOC to pursue dev't of $1-B Bataan petrochem project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-RUN Philippine National Oil Co. will pursue further development of the $1-billion Bataan Petrochemical Complex despite the delay in getting partners for the planned $600-million naphtha cracker.

PNOC president Thelmo Y. Cunanan said in an interview that strengthening the midstream petrochemical industry was needed to ensure demand for the output of the naphtha cracker.

"If there is no strong midstream industry, the cracker would be a white elephant," Cunanan stressed.

Cunanan said PNOC needed to know which entities would be the key players in the midstream sector.

"We have to negotiate a long-term contract on feedstock (or deal with offtakes of the cracker plants product," he said.

The naphtha cracker was meant to produce monomers or raw the materials needed to produce resins, which in turn, are used as raw materials to produce plastic products.

"We are continuing to talk with possible investors for the naphtha cracker, but it is important that the (offtakers) are ready before we have the plant in place," Cunanan said.

PNOC, which wants at least a 34-percent stake in the cracker facility, had been in talks with Petroliam Nasional Bhd or Petronas, but the Malaysian giant backed out early this year.

In a related development, PNOC had signed in January a memorandum of understanding with Iran Petrochemical Commercial Co. that covered possible joint projects in the local petrochemical industry.

Cunanan said teams from both companies had visited each other's headquarters and that talks were "very promising."

Signed in the Iranian capital Tehran on Jan. 14, the agreement provided that PNOC and IPCC would immediately study the local petrochemical and plastics markets to assess their potential.

Both parties would also analyze possible joint ventures that might lead to formal agreements.

Cunanan had said PNOC was optimistic that the entry of Iran Petrochemicals would help spur the interest of other investors to take part in the local petrochemical industry.

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Kuok, EPHI start ₱2-B property project in Makati

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SHANG Grand Tower Corp., a subsidiary of affiliates Kuok Philippine Properties Inc. and Edsa Properties Holdings Inc., is set to launch today a P2-billion upscale residential condominium project in Makati.

In separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange, KPPI and EPHI said the project, to be called The Shang Grand Tower, shall be located at the corner of Perea and Dela Rosa Streets in Legaspi Village, Makati.

The project had long been in the pipeline but was not immediately pursued due to the long slump in the property market.

The Shang Grand Tower project was revived when EPHI agreed to bankroll the development of the high-end residential tower project in exchange for KPPI's interest in the project.

The Shang Tower was originally a joint venture between KPPI subsidiary KPPI Realty Corp. (KRC), SGV Provident Fund and Centrum 1 Condominium Corp.

Lot owners SGV Provident Fund and the Centrum group have committed to put in their adjacent lots along De la Rosa Street in Makati covering a combined area of 2,800 square meters to the project.

The project is expected to be completed in three to four years.

The Kuok/EPHI group is the developer of the Shangri-la hotel chain in the country, the Edsa Shangri-la Plaza and the Enterprise Tower in the Makati central business district.

Cocktales. . .

From page B3

bum steer) in journalistic parlance.

The harsher school of thought, propounded by Mary "Rosebud" Ong, is that the ex-police/spy chief is a born PIDAL, for Ping Is Definitely A Liar.

Protocolar fumble

IT looks like that the diplomatic stint of Vice President Teofisto Guingona has failed to impress on him the importance of punctuality and protocol considerations.

Guingona was shown on TV arriving at the Sunday High Mass to celebrate the 75th birthday of Jaime Cardinal Sin with President Macapagal-Arroyo already seated at the front pew of the Manila Cathedral.

A meek Guingona was shown sidestepping GMA's legs as the late VP squeezed himself between the President and the PCSO chair, Ma. Livia "Honeygirl" Singson-de Leon.

Judging from the TV clip, the High Mass had already started, as the President was later shown burying her head into what looked like the missal after acknowledging Guingona's dramatic entrance.

Heard through the grapevine

BANCO de Oro has no Jose Pidal account and is reserving its comment on the alleged Toh accounts only in answer to the proper summons issued by the proper government/judicial agencies.

Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

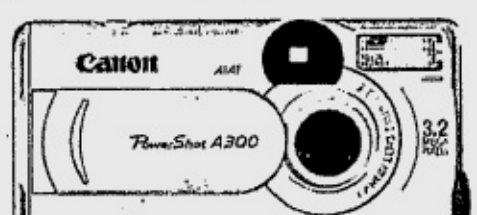
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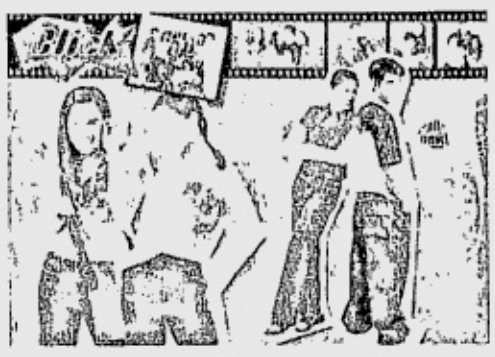
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Avon goes 'Click'

AVON teams up with GMA7's hottest teen show "Click" to present a collection of hip apparel and accessories specially made for teens. Now, teenagers who have been following the gang's adventures on TV have the chance to sport the cool, trendy getup of their fave Click members like Karen, Tricia, Valerie and AJ.

Teen girls can go trendy with Click for Avon tops like the Floral Empire top in Blue with Trapunto stitching and Floral prints, Kimono Wrap Top in Vanilla with the rad full back print and Trapunto stitching, Mandarin Top in red with the dainty oriental floral print while the boys can kick back with the cool Click for Avon Two-Tone Shirt. These tops will look great paired with perfect-for-chillin'-out Utility Jeans for boys and girls.

Click for Avon collection also features hot accessories for the hip but practical teen like



the City Mailbag in Red, Hobo Bag in blue, Top Stitch Sandals, hip shades and wallet.

Check out this cool collection from Avon this July 2003. Ask any Avon lady or visit Avon boutiques in SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Glorietta and Ali Mall. Be part of the Click for Avon Barkada now.

Avon president retires after notable 22-year stint

JOSE Mari Franco has decided to hang his hat as Avon area vice president for Southern Asia and president of Avon Cosmetics Inc after 22 years of committed and exemplary service. Franco's retirement took effect starting July 31. However, he will continue to serve as the leading direct selling and beauty company on a consultancy basis until Dec. 31. In this capacity, he will drive and provide business transformation projects, strategic counsel to the Philippines and Malaysia as well as regional and counsel on new market opportunities.

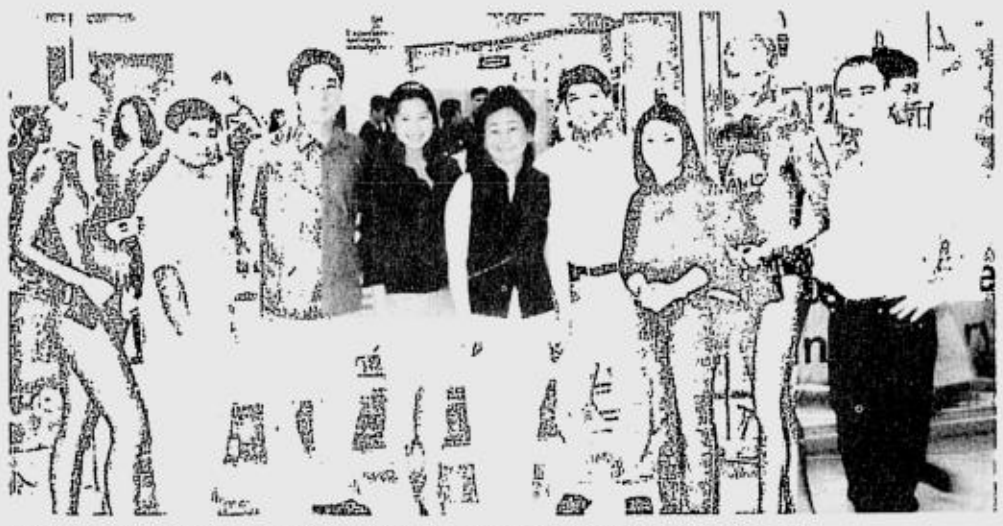


FRANCO

Franco's career with Avon has been truly laudable. A well-loved leader and mentor of the 600,000 strong Avon salesforce, Franco is considered the driving force behind Avon Philippines' success story, helping it to grow from a small market player into the biggest direct selling and beauty company in the country, and one of Avon's major strongholds in sales, market share and profit in the region. Furthermore, under Franco's leadership, Avon Philippines won the coveted Flame Award in 1996, the highest honor given to an Avon country in recognition of its strong sales performance and business growth. In 2002, Avon Philippines was the sixth largest Avon market in the world.

With this development, Perry C. Mogar steps in as the new sub-cluster vice president for the Philippines and Indonesia effective May 1. In this capacity, he will supervise the operations of the two countries while concurrently running Philippines directly as general manager. Mogar brings with him 25 years of marketing expertise in brand management for the top retail and direct selling companies in the country and the region. Prior to joining Avon, Mogar served in Sara Lee as president for Asia and headed operations in five countries including the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with $5.3 billion in annual revenues. Avon markets to women in 136 countries through 3 million independent sales representatives. Avon product lines include such recognizable brands as Anew, Skin-So-Soft, Avon Color and Avon Basics. Avon also markets an extensive line of fashion jewelry, apparel, intimate apparel, gifts and collectibles. More information on Avon and its products can be found on the country's award-winning website www.avon.com.



HUB ROCKWELL MARKS 2ND YEAR WITH COFFEE TREAT

THE HUB by Globe Telecom at Rockwell recently celebrated its 2nd anniversary by giving away freshly brewed Seattle's Best coffee to those who purchased a Nokia handset during the two-day bash. The Hub by Globe Telecom is the retail launch pad of the latest phones and mobile technologies where the techno-curious go to tinker with the phones on display. Hobnobbing with the tech-savvy and the Hub Trons at the Hub were Globe Telecom's head of sales and distribution Lizanne Uychaco (4th from left), Seattle's Best Coffee general manager Frederick Sly (2nd from left), Globe Telecom head of retail marketing Raya Roa (3rd from left), Nokia product manager Mike Smith (7th from left), Nokia account manager Joanne Racoma (6th from left), Globe's regional operations head-north Noel Cortez (left), regional operations head-south Jojo Vega (5th from left), regional head for business centers-Metro Manila Gracielou Khoe, regional marketing manager for GMA Gemma Matadling, area manager Mary Ann Alvarado, and Hub Rockwell manager Claire Cuadrado. The Hub Trons (Tech Rover On Site) gamely showed guests the many features of the latest release from Nokia, the Nokia 3300 Music Phone. Never failing to turn heads with their futuristic garb, the Hub Trons is the digiratti's answer to spokemodels, enthusing the latest trends in mobile technology to tech savvy mallgoers.

SEPTEMBER DINING SPECIALS AT THE PALMS

This September, Palms Country Club, the premier country club in the south, features a delectable array of specialties that goes around the globe. Members and their guests can enjoy muy delicioso Spanish cuisine with a Spanish food festival, which will run from Sept. 5 to 7 at Café Asiana, and from Sept. 8 to 14 at The Continental. It will feature a wide selection of flavorful dishes such as tapas, gambas, tortillas, sweet flan, paella, hot churro con chocolate, and jamon Serrano. Aside from the Spanish food festival, The Continental will also hold a Spanish Wine Appreciation Event on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. For Japanese food lovers, Ichizen offers the Tempura Teishoku promo, where two selections of Tempura sets (which include appetizer, rice, soup and dessert) go for only P490 from Sept. 1 to 15. Also featuring the other side of the globe-Germany-Café Asiana celebrates Oktoberfest early as beer lovers can party on Sept. 27 with an all-you-can-drink beer special available at only P380, while P780 covers this plus a filling Bavarian style buffet. Members and their guests may also dine, relax, and unwind at Strikes, The Poolside Bar, The Bleachers Juice Bar and Member's Bar. For more information, call 771-7171 or e-mail activities@thepalmsclub.com.



MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio grand opening today

MC HOME Depot, the one-stop-shop for all home furnishing needs, will have a grand opening celebration today, Sept. 3 for its new home at the Fort Bonifacio Global City, in Taguig, Metro Manila. The depot, which held its soft opening last February, will hold daylong festivities, which include a motorcade, a parade of the paper giants and a traditional Chinese Dragon Dance. The opening program will be hosted by actor Eric Quizon and broadcast journalist Ces Drilon. The affair will culminate in an all-night dance party, powered by the Spirit of '67 band. Among the activities are feng shui consultations from 1 to 4 p.m., a laser lights and fireworks display, an audio visual presentation featuring popular characters from "Charlie's Angels" and "The Matrix." Another highlight is the awarding ceremony of the Build and Play Inter-Scholastic Design Competition, an interior-designing contest for interior design students from various schools in Metro Manila.

ASIA FOOD EXPO 2003

For the love of food!

The AFEX is the 12th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery organized by Trade Information Marketing and Exhibition (TIME)

FOR four days, the World Trade Center is converted into a one-stop shop showcasing the latest trends in the food industry—from food machinery, packaging and processing equipment, products and franchising, to business and cooking seminars.

If you're someone in the food business, or a person with capital planning to start a food business, or just a mere foodie in love with food, then you shouldn't miss the biggest "food" event of the year—the AsiaFood Expo 2003 (AFEX).

The AFEX is the 12th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery organized by Trade Information Marketing and Exhibition (TIME).

Some 10,000 square meters of space inside the World Trade Exhibit is converted into a big one-stop shop where all the players in the food and beverage industry converge for four days.

The exhibition is a showcase of the latest trends and offerings in the food industry—from machinery and equipment, packaging and processing, products and franchising, to business and cooking seminars.

"This is the opportunity for everyone involved in the food industry to see and source requirements for their business," said Josephine Miranda, marketing manager of TIME.

"From this exhibit, you can get ideas to improve your business or start a new one. You can see new technology on food handling and processing from Europe and other parts of Asia not usually found in here. You will meet suppliers and technical people and even find second-hand equipment. Ideas involving the whole cycle in food business—from machines to finished product—you will get here."

More than 600 exhibitors from 35 countries are participating, 204 among them are local participants. Local exhibitors, whose number has doubled yearly, occupy the exhibit area of Food & Drinks Asia 2003 and Food Franchising 2003.

Food & Drinks Asia is a showcase of the best of Filipino food. You can find finished products from specialty food, delicatessen, confectionery, beverages, beers, wines and spirits.

Miranda added that local food manufacturers will have the chance to showcase their products side by side with their foreign counterparts.

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OPENING SHOW: Sept. 5 to 15, 2003 / Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm
FIRST BULACAN INDUSTRIAL CITY

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT

For the love of food!

From page B6

stores, franchising has become not only a trend, but also one profitable business to enter into. Franchise is a business "out of the box," easy to manage, and requires only low capital. Participants of the Food Franchising offer a variety of businesses that you can readily establish in your area. Seminars on franchising will also be held.

Through AsiaFood Expo, TIME also supports and encourages small and medium enterprises to showcase their products and be competitive not only in the local market but also globally.

A number of participants are pavilions from the members of the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Inc, (Philfoodex), Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. (AFFI) and National Coffee Development Board (NCDB).

The NCDB offers a booth that also serves as a "coffee house" where visitors can sit, relax, converse and sip brewed local coffee. The organization has been campaigning for the revival of the coffee industry in the country through its "Bean to Brew" campaign. The group will offer a seminar to those who want to go into the coffee business by teaching them coffee farming, preparation and brewing.

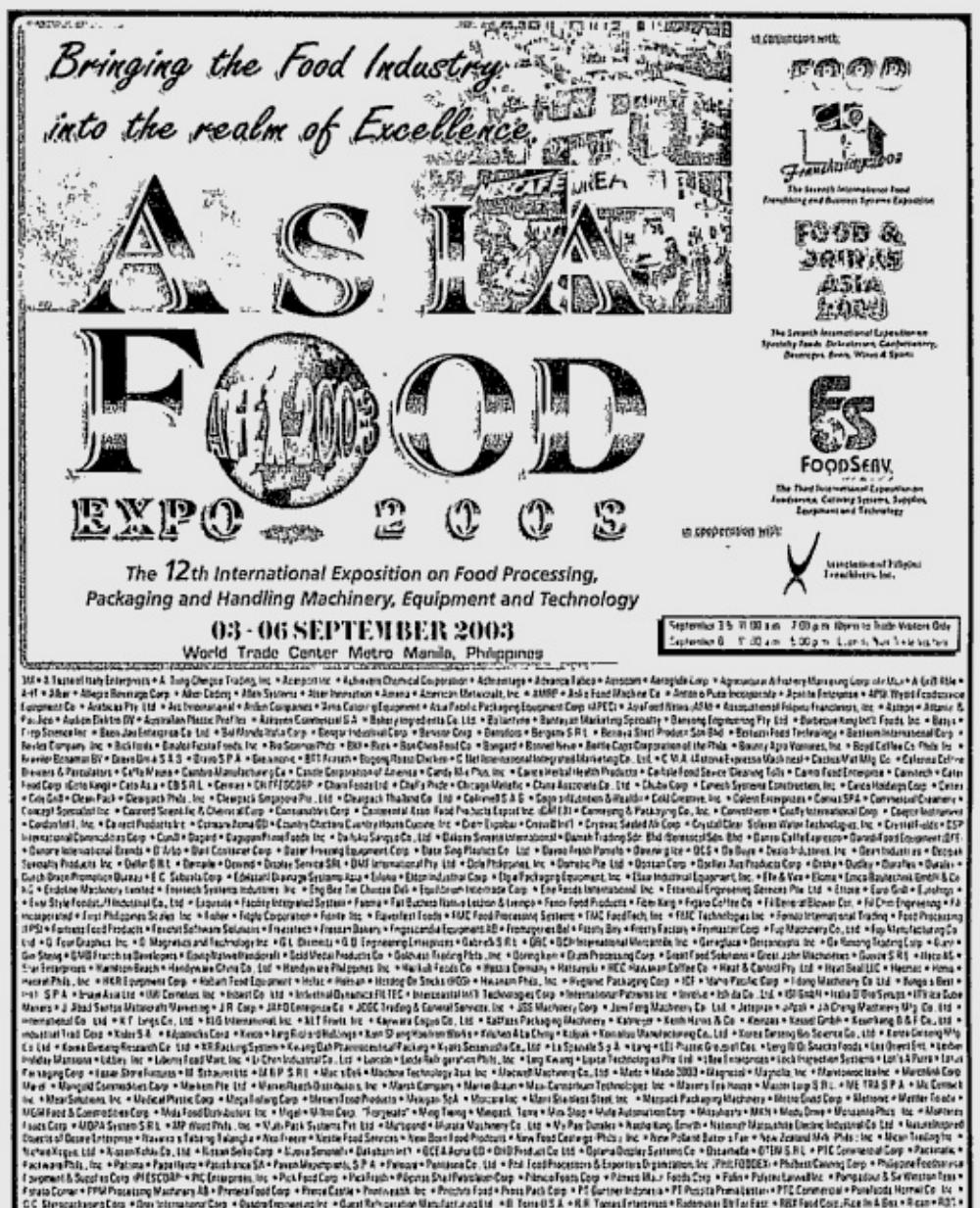
A variety of packaging machines will be displayed, including high-end ones that have x-ray system that provides an efficient, cost effective method in detecting contaminated, missing and even misaligned package content. Find also companies catering to designing of packaging machines to product development and marketing.

Among the refrigeration machines, you may view a display system that specializes in refrigerated and dry display cases for any variety of products, or those having rapid auto roll up door for high traffic volume of forklift and pedestrian.

There are also bakery supplies and equipment, scales with printer, inkjet printer, dishwashing machines, chicken rotisserie machine, ice cream maker, espresso machines to coffee beans, pastries, pasta Italina sausage, hopia, queso de bola, canned goods and many more.

Truly, AsiaFood Expo is the one-stop shop for the needs of food entrepreneurs.

The exhibition is a showcase of the latest trends and offerings in the food industry—from machinery and equipment, packaging and processing, products and franchising, to business and cooking seminars



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ROTARY STAND-UP POUCH BLOW/FILL/SEAL MACHINE

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September 3–6



Capacity of 45 pouches per minute!!!

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PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP), hereinafter called "the Government" through the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) hereinafter called "the Employer", invites interested local and foreign contractors to apply for Eligibility and Prequalification and if prequalified, to bid for the STP Rehabilitation Project of the Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project – Bataan Economic Zone.
2. This is the Third Invitation to Prequalify/Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the SEZEMP-Bataan STP Rehabilitation Project. Nobody pre-qualified in the first and the second invitation. The Project description is still the same particularly.

Budgetary Project Cost	P120 M
Source of Fund	GOP (PEZA)
Construction Period	365 Calendar Days
Tentative Starting Date	March, 2004

SCOPE OF WORK
a. Rehabilitation of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant (Rated Capacity 15,500 cm.m./day)
b. Construction of New Sludge Drying Bed (Approx. 9,000 sq.m.)
c. Repair of Existing Sludge Pump Room, Admin. and Disinfections Bldg., (Approx. 1,800 sq.m.)
d. Construction of New Guard House (Approx. 6 sq.m.)
e. Rehabilitation of Existing Road and Landscaping (Approx. 11,300 sq.m.)

3. The application for pre-qualification is open to bona fide qualified contractor from all countries and areas. Foreign Contractor Applicants should be licensed in their own country/area, or has filed an application for Special License at PCAB, and must satisfy with the requirements of EO 40, i.e. forming themselves into joint venture with local contractor. Local Contractor Applicants must be holding PCAB "AAA" License & Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors as Large "B" for Sewerage or Sewage System and/or Water Treatment Plant and System.
4. Contractors forming themselves into a Joint Venture shall comply with the provisions for the procurement of civil works under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40, series of 2001 (EO 40). In case of Joint Venture Applicant, the lead firm and members partner must satisfy the registration and classification requirements in order to meet the jointly and generally liable provision for any and all obligation, which the joint venture may incur. For joint ventures, the lead partner shall meet not less than 40% of the qualifying criteria for similar project experience, with each partners shall meet individually not less than 25% of the qualifying criteria for similar project experience.
5. In view of the size of the project and relative advanced construction and technology required, eligible contractors shall have an adequate expertise and experience in the similar projects. The Applicant must meet the following minimum requirement.
   - The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices completed and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.
   - Successful experience in the execution of construction and/or rehabilitation projects of at least three (3) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having a capacity of at least 500 cu.m. per day, or at least one (1) sewerage/water treatment plant/ system having the capacity of 7,500 cu.m. per day comparable to the proposed project.
   - The prospective Applicant's Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on his net working capital must be at least equal to the estimated budget for the contract.
6. Pre-qualification Document may be procured upon submission of the following:

   Letter of Intent, Authorization to Purchase Document, certified true copy of the Contractor's License and Certificate of Registration and Classification (for Local Contractor); and license in their own country/area (for Foreign Contractors).
7. Prequalification document will be available for issuance starting September 08, 2003 at the PEZA-SEZEMP Office c/o BAC Secretariat, 3/F Almeda Building, Roxas Blvd. cor. San Luis St., Pasay City, upon payment of non-refundable amount of P3,000.00. The deadline for submission of accomplished Pre-qualification Documents in sealed envelope (1-original & 5-copies) shall be on October 02, 2003, not later than 5:00 PM at the same venue mentioned above.
8. PEZA shall notify the Applicants regarding the results of the Pre-qualification evaluation on or about October 27, 2003. The plans and Bid Documents shall be issued by PEZA not later than October 31, 2003, upon payment by the pre-qualified contractor's of non-refundable amount of P30,000.00.
9. The tentative schedule of the Site Inspection and Pre-bid Conference is on November 21 and December 10, 2003, respectively. Moreover, the date of bidding shall be on January 06, 2003; wherein the dropping and opening of bids shall be held at same venue as stated above at 10:00 AM.
10. All particulars relative to the procurement of the contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. 40, series 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulation.
11. PEZA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein, and accepts the offer most advantageous to the government.

BAC-Chairman
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

(PDI–Aug. 27 & Sept. 3, 2003)

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SEPTEMBER EDITION

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DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID (Excl. of VAT)
REAL ESTATE			
MANILA			
CWB-14	No. 280 A. Bonifacio Ave. cor. A. Flores St., Jesus de la Pena, Marikina City	199 m² commercial/residential lot (TCT No. 428042) w/ bldg. & Imprvts.	P 4,113,300.00
BATAAN			
	Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis, Camaya, Mariveles	Residential lots with bldgs. & Impvts.: AREA (m²) / TCT No.	
AMD-ED -42a	Lot 15 Blk 20	100 / T-229481	P 300,900.00
-42b	10 9	50 / T-229482	P 175,600.00
-42c	6 9	50 / T-229483	P 197,500.00
-42d	5 9	50 / T-229484	P 197,500.00
-42e	3 9	50 / T-229485	P 157,800.00
-42f	45 8	50 / T-229490	P 252,100.00
-42g	7 20	50 / T-229491	P 195,300.00
-42h	49 8	50 / T-229493	P 149,500.00
-42i	10 20	50 / T-229494	P 175,600.00
-42j	15 32	50 / T-229495	P 225,000.00
-42k	40 32	50 / T-229496	P 240,400.00
-42l	18 20	50 / T-229497	P 295,800.00
-42m	22 20	50 / T-229498	P 139,500.00
-42n	6 8	50 / T-229499	P 149,500.00
-42o	8 9	50 / T-229500	P 197,500.00
-42p	7 9	50 / T-229501	P 211,400.00
-42q	4 9	50 / T-229502	P 149,500.00
-42r	7 & 10 32	100 / T-229503 & 229504	P 343,000.00
-42s	39,35 & 38 31	150 / T-229505, 229506 & 229507	P 416,600.00
BATANGAS			
LIP-3 LAO-04	Bo. Talaibon, Ibaan	5,000 m² agro-industrial lot (TCT No. T-111244) w/ bldgs. & Imprvts.	P 12,229,700.00
LIP-3 LAO-05	Bo. Munting Tubig, Ibaan	2 parcels of agro-industrial lots (TCT Nos. T-111242 & T-111243) total area of 19,238 m² w/ bldgs. & Imprvts.	P 6,179,900.00
BULACAN			
AMD-ED-43	Bgy. Matang Tubig, Baliuag	3 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-162317, T-162318 & T-162319) total area of 21,533 m² w/ bldg. & Imprvts.	P 16,218,600.00
AMD-ML-44	Along G.L. Jaena St., Cityland Green Breeze Village I, Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria	200 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-295185)	P 180,000.00
CAVITE			
AMD-ML-45	Bo. Iruhin, Tagaytay City	1,500 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No.T-36905)	P 4,230,640.00
DAS-002	Poblacion, Rosario	2 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. T-1024912 & T-1024913) total area of 442 m² w/ bldgs. & Imprvts.	P 3,143,900.00
DAS-003	Bo. San Juan, Gen. Trias	3 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. T-1024914, T-1024915 & T-1024916) total area of 654 m² w/ bldgs. and Imprvts.	P 2,425,300.00
	Metrogate Subd., Bgy. Langcaan, Dasmarinas	5 parcels of vacant residential lots: AREA (m²) / TCT No.	
AMD-ML -46a		120 / T-908735	P 420,000.00
-46b		120 / T-908736	P 420,000.00
-46c		120 / T-908737	P 420,000.00
-46d		120 / T-908738	P 420,000.00
-46e		120 / T-908739	P 420,000.00
LAGUNA			
AMD-ML-47	Along Bonifacio St., Bgy. Sto. Nino, Poblacion, Lumban	97 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-200189) w/ 4-storey bldg.	P 2,007,200.00
QUEZON			
	Bo. Cabuguang, Tagkawayan	Vacant lots:	
AMD-ML -48a		203,088 m² lot (TCT No. T-367909)	P 3,884,075.00
-48b		205,758 m² lot (TCT No. T-367910)	P 3,497,920.00
RIZAL			
AMD-ML-49	Bgy. Quisao, Pillila	2 parcels of agricultural lots (TCT Nos. M-100249 & M-100250) total area of 28,720 m² w/ bldg. & Imprvts.	P 4,230,900.00
AMD-JB-50	35 Sto. Nino St., Ma. Corazon Subd., Cupang, Antipolo	2 parcels of industrial-residential lots (TCT Nos. 284045 & 284046) total area of 520 m² with bldgs. & Imprvts.	P 2,547,000.00
AMD-ML-52	No. 3 Ursula St., Milagros Subd., Bo. Dalig, Antipolo	302 m² residential lot (TCT No. 324296) w/ bldg. & Imprvts.	P 699,720.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AMD-JB-53	TLRC Reproductive Cmpd., Bgy. Pandacaqui, Mexico, Pampanga	Various abaca rope-making machinery and equipment	P 8,500.00 to 2,611,300.00
AMD-ML-54	La Campana Cmpd., EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	Various machinery and equipment for steel manufacturing	P 800.00 to 838,800.00
AMD-ML-55	No. 100 Industry Rd.II cor. Reparo Rd., Araneta University Village, Potrero, Malabon City	Various lathe machines and equipment for steel fabrication	P 68,000.00 to 306,000.00
AMD-ML-56	DBP Depot, Doña Severina Subd., Paranaque City	4 units machinery and equipment for bolts & nuts fabrication	P 10,480.00 to 311,760.00
AMD-ML-57	Serg's Products Cmpd., Ortigas Ave., Cainta, Rizal	Plastic pallets	P 179,200.00
AMD-ED-58	Along National Road, San Rafael, Sto.Tomas, Batangas	Various fruit juice processing equipment	P 10,720.00 to 33,760.00
	La Campana Cmpd., EDSA,	2 units public utility jeepneys, Belando, 19-seater:	
AMD-ML -59a	Balintawak, Quezon City.	Plate No. NYA-731	P 30,000.00
-59b		Plate No. NYA-691	P 8,000.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2218/2252/3404 for Code starting with AMD;
926-1686 or 818-9511 loc. 1411 for CWB;
(043)757-2465 or 818-9511 loc. 1429 for LIP; and
(046)416-1390 or 818-9511 loc. 1427 for DAS.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI–Sept. 3, 2003)



NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET Call POEA at 722-1144 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF POSTHARVEST RESEARCH AND EXTENSION
Main Office: CLSU Compound, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
Tel. Nos. (044) 456-0213; 456-0287 / Fax No. 456-0110
Liaison Office: 3F ATI Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Q.C.
Tel. Nos. 927-4019, 927-4029/Fax No. 926-8159

BPRE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All reputable suppliers/manufacturers with an NFCC of at least P 5,050,000.00 and whose largest single and similar contract for the last three (3) years is at least P 2,525,000.00 are invited to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND TESTING OF THREE (3) UNITS REFRIGERATED TRUCKS** as follows:

Quantity/ Unit	Specifications	Approved Budget for the Contract
2 units	6-Wheeler Truck with 16-Footer Ref. Van (16ft x 6 ½ft x 6 ft	P 3,600,000.00
1 unit	4-Wheeler Truck with 10-Footer Ref. Van (10 ft x 6 ft x 6 ft)	1,450,000.00
	TOTAL	P 5,050,000.00

SPECIFICATIONS:

Refrigerated Van:
- Aluminum, flat sided, with sprayed polyurethane insulation all around
- Heavy duty stainless steel hinges camlock mechanism
- Pull down time of 2 hrs from ambient temp. to maximum cooling temperature of -10°C
- Engine driven compressor and an electric stand-by plug-in power system; single phase;
- With corrugated and stainless flooring
- With double doors, full opening swing doors w/ plastic curtains & camlock mechanism
- With in-cab control box for temperature control and monitor
- With environment-friendly refrigerant

Truck:
- Brand-new; Diesel engine
- With spare tires and operation manual
- Maximum load capacity of 6 metric tons and above for 16-footer and 2.5 metric tons and above for 10-footer refrigerated van
- With 7-8 speed manual transmission (including reverse); 24 volt electrical system; power assisted left hand steering; with complete accessories of seat belts, standard tools, early warning device
- With LTO Registration and comprehensive insurance
- With established dealerships in Benguet or adjacent province capable of providing full-vehicle repair & parts supply services
- With standard in cab control box for temperature

Interested suppliers/manufacturers may obtain the required **eligibility form** from the BPRE Main Office from **August 25-September 7, 2003. The deadline for the submission of applications for eligibility is on September 8, 2003.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders from August 27 – Sept. 9, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00

The **Prebid Conference** shall be held at **1:00 p.m. of September 15, 2003** at the Conference Room of the BPRE Liaison Office at 3/F ATI Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. The **Bidding Conference** is at **10:00 a.m. of September 22, 2003** at the same venue.

For further inquiries, please call **MR. RONALDO S. R. REYES**, DA-BPRE BAC Vice-Chair, at any of the following nos. (044) 456-0287/ 456-0213/ 456-0282 loc. 300/341.

The BPRE reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/ies and to accept any offer that it considers most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) RICARDO L. CACHUELA
Executive Director

(PDI–Aug. 20 & Sept. 03, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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GERTRUDES STA. ROMANA BARBIN

of Makati, Rizal and Cabanatuan City

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 30, 2003 at the age of 84.

Her beloved husband Nemesio †††; children Digan and Nemesio Jr.; son-in-law Prospero Dela Cruz; daughters-in-law Gina, Margie and Nora, grandchildren Victor Mario, Nicolle Lourdes, Mark Daniel, Ana, Nemesio III, Emmanuel Dominique, Mary Rose, Oliver, Geralyn and Jennifer; sister Sofia; sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and relatives request friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on September 4, 2003, Thursday at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

The Management and Employees of

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES

deeply condole with the family of

FRANCISCO "Frankie" A. GUTIERREZ

(1942-2003)

Assistant Vice President - Airport Systems and Contracts

who passed away on August 29, 2003.

He will be missed by his wife Loy, children Marie Anjanette, Franz Josef, Erwin and Dominic, brother Paulino, Jr. and his colleagues at Philippine Airlines.

His body lies in state at the Mary Mother of Good Counsel Parish Chruch, Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on September 4, 2003 after the 2 PM Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

WE LOVINGLY REMEMBER
ON THE SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY
OF OUR DEAR "DADDY"

AGAPITO G. TAGAYSAY

who peacefully passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on September 4, 2001

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Thursday, September 4, 2003 at the following churches:

Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Mandaluyong City	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Ave., Q.C	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Libis, Q.C.	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Project 4, Q.C.	6:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Cenacle Retreat House, Loyola Heights, Q.C.	6:30 a.m.
Sta. Maria della Strada, Katipunan Rd., Q.C.	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, Cubao, Q.C	6:00 a.m.
St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.	6:30 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 a.m. & 7:15 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	7:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (EDSA Shrine)	6:30 a.m.; 12:15 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr., Q.C.	6:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philamlife Homes, Q.C	6:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio- Friary, Forbes Park, Makati	6:15 a.m.; 12:15 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, SAV, Makati	7:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. Stanislaus Kostka Chapel, Ateneo H.S. Dept, Q.C	7:10 a.m.
Holy Family Chapel, Eastwood City, Libis, Q.C.	12:15 p.m.
Ateneo Professional Schools Chapel, Rockwell Center	12:15 p.m.
San Fernando de Dilao Church, Paco, Manila	5:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned Hulo, Mandaluyong City	6:30 a.m.
Shrine of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 p.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Sta. Cruz Parish Church, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Baclaran	8:00 a.m.
Parish of St. Paul the First Hermit San Pablo City, Laguna.	6:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental	5:00 p.m.
San Sebastian Cathedral, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental	7:00 a.m.
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Jaro, Iloilo City.	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. Anthony de Padua Church, West Orange, New Jersey, U.S.A.	9:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Rancho Cucamonga, Ca., U.S.A.	7:00 a.m.

We, his children request relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
ROMULO N. TORRALBA SR.	Sept. 3, 2003	2:00 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Mem. Park, Calamba City	#61 Gotesco St., Calamba Hills Vill., Mayapa, Calamba City
DOMINGA F. OPULENCIA	Sept. 3, 2003	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Mem. Park, Calamba City	Opulencia Comp., Crossing Calamba City

KAHANGAHANGANG PARANGAL PARA SA MINAMAHAL

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DR. VIRGINIA VILLANUEVA SANTOS

of San Narciso, Zambales

Peacefully joined our Creator on Aug. 29, 2003 at the age of 77.

Her bereaved husband **Col. Isabelo M. Santos**, children & in-laws, **Virgilio & Theresa, Larry (†) & Precy, Henry & Emery, Jojo & Grace, Yvonne & Norman, Joey & Nanette, Ming & Ceazar**; grandchildren & great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at San Narciso, Zambales. Interment will be on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2003, 1 p.m. at SNZ Municipal Cemetery.

"In Christ all shall be made alive..." **Corinthians 15:22**

CLASSIFIEDS

transCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

Date : August 28, 2003
Contract No. BCMD.2003-01

1. Contract No.: BCMD.2003-01 — Supply and Delivery of Metering Equipment, Devices, Computer Software and Hardware for Luzon and Visayas.
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of supplying and delivering the metering equipment, devices, computer software and hardware to TRANSCO's designated delivery site.
3. The Approved Budget from Internal Cash Generation for the Contract to be bid are as follows:

Schedule I	Digital Multifunction Meters	P 101,850,000.00
Schedule II	Meter Data Retrieval System	P 40,000,000.00

4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino and Foreign manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, firms and contractors who have the legal technical and financial requisites of the contract bid.
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by TRANSCO in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance on **September 01, 2003** at the Bids and Contract Management Department, Ground Floor, Building No. 2 Power Center, BIR Road Corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **October 15, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, firms and contractors, not yet included in the TRANSCO's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - For foreign bidders, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledge or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate therein
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee &
Vice President, Eng'g and Design Construction

(PDI - Aug 30 Sept 3 & 10 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office
CENTRAL PROJECT OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), has received an ODA Loan from JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (hereinafter referred to as JBIC) towards the cost of Mindanao Sustainable Settlement Area Development (MINSSAD) Project, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan in the total amount of two million and five hundred thousand pesos (PhP 2,500,000.00) to payments under the contract of procurement of equipment.

The DAR, Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO), Pre-qualifications, Bids and Award Committee (PBAC) is inviting contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following equipment under one Lot:

52 units of desktop Personal Computer
2 units of Laptop Computer

JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the Philippines-Department of Agrarian Reform, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:

1. will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
2. will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it at any time determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.

Interested eligible parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids using Two Envelope System.

- List of eligibility requirements shall be available for issuance on August 28-September 5, 2003.
- Closing date and time for submission of eligibility requirements shall be on September 8, 2003, 5:00 P.M., Manila Time
- Letter of Notice to Prospective Bidders shall be issued on September 15, 2003.
- Bid Documents shall be issued to Pre-Qualified Bidders on September 16-19, 2003, upon presentation of a valid Notification Letter and payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand pesos (P 2,000).
- Closing Date and Time of submission of bids is September 29, 2003 at 9:00 A.M. Bids shall be opened in the presence of the participating bidders on the same day at 10:00 A.M.

All documents pertaining to the tender are available at DAR-FAPsO, Administrative Unit, 2nd Floor, FAPsO Building, Department of Agrarian Reform, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

The DAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(PDI - Aug. 27 & Sept. 3, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE/JUNK ITEMS, RESIDUAL DIESEL FUEL

"AS IS, WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL" BASIS
DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the following items

ITEM	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	One (1) lot approximately 172,000 kgs of various unserviceable items, consisting of 24 items such as steel plates of various thickness, pipe fittings, acid tanks, compressors cylinders, flanges, burner assembly, radiator, steel rack welding machines, boilers feed pumps, GRF, rotor blade CWP bushing pumps, weighing scale, diesel generator and other items located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 5.00/kg
2.	One (1) lot of junk items consisting of corroded drums, air heater elements, junk motors vehicles and angle bars approximately 33,000 kgs., located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 3.00/kg.
3.	One (1) lot condenser tubes, 1,258 pcs. And scrap copper cables approximately 150 kgs., located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 640,500.00/lot
4.	One (1) lot of unserviceable station and automotive battery, 59 pcs. located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 2,950.00/lot
5.	One (1) lot residual diesel Fuel a) approximately 203 drums	P 324,240.00/lot

Note: The disposal of residual fuel is on a "AS IS, WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL" Basis. DRUMS NOT INCLUDED

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 p.m. of **September 16, 2003** at the Materials Management Department Office, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For bid forms at P500.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call telephone no. 922-8431 or 924-5384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4:30 p.m. on **September 15, 2003**. All bids must be submitted with the following:

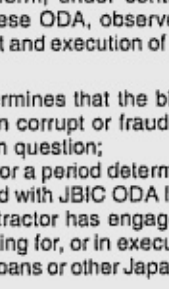
1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY)

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department
FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Sept. 1, 2 & 3, 2003)

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PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Pinay fulfills dream of becoming a US lawyer



IMMIGRATION lawyer Gretel Tiongson-Ness

By Ysabel San Pedro-Schuld

GRETEL Tiongson-Ness migrated to the "Garden State" of New Jersey, USA at the tender age of 15. During the mid-60s, Gretel's paternal grandfather, Dr. Antonio Tiongson, a specialist in hematology, together with her grandmother, Cornelia, a pediatrician, petitioned her father, Danilo, his wife, Grace, and all of their four children (which included Gretel, the eldest of the siblings) to migrate to America.

Gretel recalls, "I transferred from Assumption in Makati after my junior year where I was in boarding school living next door to the nuns." Her parents had to make the decision to sell their business. "We had a flourishing *palaisdaan* in Lingayen and Binmaley, Pangasinan as well as sugarcane and rice plantations in Baculong, Tarlac," she adds.

Law school

Gretel says that when her entire family took the risk and left their comfortable haven in Tarlac, she already knew she wanted to be a lawyer, "I attended Holy Spirit in Tarlac during my elementary years. Then, my parents decided to transfer me to boarding school at Assumption in Makati. When our immigrant papers finally came through, I had to finish my last year of high school in New Jersey before I pursued college at Rutgers University finishing pre-law. I then went to law school at Albany Law School in New York."

After passing the bar in New York, Gretel worked at the Newark INS (Immigration and Naturalization) Asylum Office in New Jersey as an asylum officer where she adjudicated applications for political asylum from various countries, including the Philippines.

Though she planned to work for the government for only one year, Gretel stayed on extra year since she enjoyed h· work as an asylum officer. In 1996, she was assigned to work at the INS Office in Guam to interview Kurdish refugees from Iraq and it was there that she met her husband, Brian Ness, an INS Detention Enforcement Officer at the time. He came from the Portland, Oregon INS Office. After less than two years, Gretel and Brian got married in a simple civil ceremony in August 1997. In the name of love, Gretel agreed to move to Portland, Oregon to be with Brian.

"Close family and friends thought I was crazy to quit a good paying secure job and move across the country just like that!" she recalls. But Gretel trusted her instincts, backed by her solid upbringing, to guide her in her decision. "Brian and I share the same core values when it comes to family as well as our goals in life. So even though we may be night and day in everything else, our values are what keep us strong as a family."

Gretel says that when she first came to Portland, transferring to the INS there was not an attractive option since it was not comparable to her position in the New Jersey office. So she took the bar exam in Oregon, passed it and worked with a small immigration firm for three years before she moved to Parker, Bush and Lane in 2001. She now works with six other immigration lawyers.

For Gretel, the bottom line is service. She is there to serve the immigrant, to hopefully give the immigrant a leg-up, a positive new start in life in America. She knows the travails that immigrants go through having gone through the immigration process herself. "I figured since my family and I went through the long wait for our papers, went to the consular interview at the US embassy, and then filed for our US citizenships, specializing in immigration law would be an easy transition, especially since I also speak fluent Tagalog. Immigration law is such a special area not only because of its complexity but also because of the very positive and personal nature of it. *Sa simula pa lang*, very positive *na* since you are contributing directly to the start of a new life of an immigrant in America."

Time for family

Gretel says that the firm is very family-oriented, so she is able to still spend quality time with her family. Although a self-proclaimed workaholic, Gretel places foremost value to family time with her little children. "I am blessed and lucky to be in a profession that I love and to have found a very supportive work environment. This may sound weird but I love waking up in the morning and going to work. Indeed, my firm is almost like a second family to me. Everybody is supportive of each other. My other partners, Rich Parker, James Lane, Les Bush, and Tilman Hasche, are wonderful and very considerate when it comes to family issues." She says that there is nothing worse that having to wake up in the morning and work day in day out in a job you absolutely detest.

Advice for immigrants

As an immigration lawyer, Gretel has some advice for Filipinos wanting to migrate to the US. After 9-11, Gretel says everything has become so strict when it comes to immigration. "*Napakahigpit na*. For example, before they would just routinely run a security check on the alien applicant. Now, INS runs a security check on the US Citizen or green card holder petitioning the immigrant as well." She says there has definitely been a wave of anti-immigrant sentiment in the types of laws recently passed by Congress, especially with the notion that foreigners are taking jobs away from US workers.

"The fight against terrorism must be balanced with the protection of individual rights. One's patriotism should not be pitted against one's desire to uphold the rights protected by our Constitution. Although well-intentioned, the laws coming out of our government have definitely had an anti-foreigner flavor to them."

Gretel mentions that she has found it useful to chat with Pinoy clients first before officially asking them to come to the office and pay the firm's initial consultation fee. "Normally, after you get through the long history of most Pinoys, I find that an immigration benefit may not be immediately available to them at the present time. *Sayang naman na magbayad pa sila ng* consultation fee only for me to tell them that nothing can be done at the present time."

CAREER TALES



Questions

The other thing she has found is that there is a lot of misinformation within the Filipino community. "Everybody knows someone who appears to have the exact same case as theirs and was able to get an immigration benefit. *Ang hindi nila alam* and which of course most *kababayans* will not readily share is the fact that the case is really more complicated than it sounds and the negative aspects to it were not shared." So Gretel warns that if something sounds too good to be true, ask a lot of questions and ask for written proof. Unfortunately, she says, "*Kung minsan kapwa Pilipino pa ang nanloloko.*"

For Gretel, life as a US immigrant lawyer has its rewards, one of which is being able to help her fellow Filipinos achieve their dreams to work in the land of endless opportunities.

Accounting professionals share in the vision of national prosperity

By Candy G. Villanueva

ACCOUNTANTS are known as the silent force in every organization. Quietly hunched over their calculators and spreadsheets, many accountants are often taken for granted. As businesses expand, accountants work to keep the economic wheels of the companies turning.

To give accountants their due recognition, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants is working to bring people's attention to the important roles and valuable contributions of accounting professionals in the development of the national economy.

National organization

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) is the national association of certified public accountants with over 80,000 members. It is dedicated to uplifting and developing the accountancy profession. Its mission is to build a group of accounting professionals who are dynamic, proactive, responsive and innovative leaders dedicated to improving the Filipino's quality of life.

Spearheading this movement is the PICPA national president, Crisanto F. Castro Jr. He is the former undersecretary of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Regional Development - South Luzon under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He carries two bachelor degrees (Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Ateneo de Naga) and a masters degree in Business Administration. His varied experiences as a CPA in education, commerce and industry, government, and private practice propelled him to serve his country by sharing his talent and vision with PICPA.

Promoting awareness of the critical role of accountants in business and the economy is Castro's challenge as PICPA national president. Castro believes that right at the conception of the company, an accountant should already be there to facilitate the development process. Accountants provide the necessary data to help management in their decision-making. Castro emphasizes, "The accounting role is vital in every industry because financial reports help management see where they are going and determine whether they are going in the right direction."

Role of accountants

Castro admits that many are unaware of the accountant's vital role in a company. But Castro remains proud of his profession. He reasons, "The accountant is a primary profession. It is a profession that is needed by all professions."

Indeed, every money-earning individual or organization relies on accounting to set his or her financial matters in order. "Without accountants, even lawyers and doctors would be at a loss." Castro adds, "When it comes to meeting government obligations as far as taxes are concerned, accountants are the professionals everybody calls for."

PICPA's main vision is to develop accounting professionals of high integrity and competence to contribute to national prosperity. Castro believes that CPAs hold a vital role to the country's economic development. He cites the Philippines need for foreign investors as an example. "A country needs foreign investment but if PICPA does not meet the international accounting standards, foreign investors would shy away."

According to Castro, if we fail to adapt a globally accepted accounting system, foreign investment will be highly affected. In addition, he also stressed the importance of good governance. "For good governance, accountability should be there and accountants play a vital role in that."

ALL ABOUT WORK



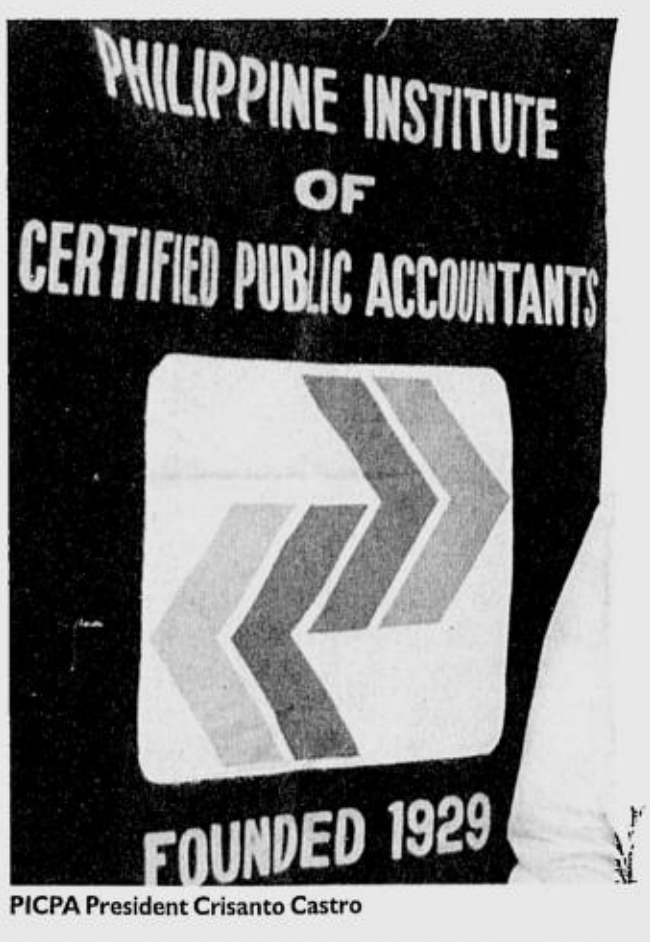
High standards

The PICPA president hopes to help build a progressive community by directing accounting professionals toward a high level of competence and strict observance to the code of conduct. He encourages accountants not only to develop their expertise by updating their knowledge and discipline but also to build character and follow professional ethics. "Develop your minds and expertise but also develop a sense of values." In addition, Castro believes that accountants should develop a sense of foresight. "Aside from being analytical, they should be able to see the result of every situation or transaction in an organization."

It is part of PICPA's mission to "provide a culture of excellence so that professionals could develop strong values of commitment, rationality, expertise and responsibility." With this mission, Castro hopes to be able to help in the improvement of the country's quality of life.

Other career paths

Contrary to popular belief, there are other opportunities for accountants aside from the accounting profession. Countless CPAs have succeeded in other fields. Castro is a shining example, as he was never confined to the four walls of the accounting department. He was also a teacher, a consultant and a service-oriented person. Castro hopes aspiring CPAs and accountants would use their profession to give to the community. "We are not only enclosed to our profession. We try to reach out."



PICPA President Crisanto Castro



PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

As a professor of the Accountancy Department and Dean of College of Commerce in Ateneo Naga before, he encouraged his students to be proud of their chosen profession. "In case you do not land a job, use your knowledge to create your own job," Castro told his students. "We are natural entrepreneurs because we are good at analyzing, determining and making a financial plan."

This November, CPAs will now have an opportunity to renew and review their roles in business and the economy. In the upcoming national convention for CPAs nationwide, CPAs will be able to interact with their colleagues and work on how to improve the accountancy profession. The 57th Annual National Convention (ANC) will be held in the historic city of Legazpi in Albay Province from Nov. 26 to 29, 2003.

Unusual sessions

According to the president, this year's convention will be different because of the unconventional learning sessions provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer's People at Work Livel Seminar Series. The seminar is open to the public, accountants and non-accountants alike. Students will also benefit from the seminar by learning about the different career paths and choices and getting pointers on how to get ahead in the working world. The convention will also hold the usual technical sessions and activities to advance the science of accounting in the country and promote high professional and ethical standards among accountants.

A product of Naga City, Castro hopes to promote the beauty of Bicol through the PICPA 57th Annual National Convention. "Everybody should see the magnificent beauty of Mayon Volcano."

(To register for the PICPA annual national convention, contact the PICPA National Office at tel. no. 723-0691 or visit their website at www.picpa.com.ph.)

Multi-degreed applicant finds difficulty looking for office job

By Jerry F. Santiago
President and General Manager, Kraft Foods Philippines, Inc.

I'M a 26-year old lad from Cebu City. I obtained the following degrees: 1) Bachelor of Arts major in Literature - March 2001, 2) Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education major in English - March 2001, 3) Master in Science Teaching major in English-March 2003, 4) Master of Arts in Teaching Literature March 2002, 5) Master of Science in Elementary School Management major in Classroom Management—on-going/ presently pursuing.

The reason I wrote you this letter is to ask your professional opinion on my problems:

1) I want to work as an office staff, but no company replied to my application. What do you think is the reason I have such difficulty being hired as such?

2) I obtained a general weighted average of 1.3 in all academic studies. Is this a hindrance to being employed in an office?

3) If I go to Manila, can I easily get work there aside from teaching?

4) I've been an Editor in chief of our school publication and received international awards, but then again why can't I get work outside the academe's portals?

5) Should I lessen my educational qualification if I apply for a position not requiring masters' degree? Would it be dishonesty on my part not to tell them in the first place?

These are just some of my concerns today. I hope you can give me a sound advice on the queries I just mentioned.

Sincerely yours,
Confused Soul

ASK YOUR CEO



I read your letter with a great deal of interest and curiosity given the very unique situation you find yourself in. The things you have accomplished in the academic field are quite impressive. You have already earned two baccalaureate degrees, two master's degrees and are already working on your third, all at a still tender age of 26 years old. All these degrees speak highly of your intellectual capacity and cerebral horsepower, as well as your attitude toward being able to complete tasks or dreams you have set your mind on accomplishing. Obviously, you have what it takes to achieve your goal and it's all a matter of getting the right opportunities or the proverbial "breaks of the game," to keep you on track with your future plans.

The best policy

Before I share with you my own work experiences and a possible roadmap for you to secure your dream of office staff work, let me tackle first your questions relating to information disclosure and the option of moving to Manila. On disclosing information, the classic adage of "Honesty is the best policy" continues to be an important yardstick in any undertaking, whether personally or professionally. This is more so with work because facts or details you share with prospective employers (even if you are just applying) form part of your personal record. Companies have various ways of checking on one's personal information through background investigation or reference checking. Improper disclosures or false representation, when discovered, may be the subject of disciplinary action later on. Just be factual and state your educational background truthfully and with confidence when asked (of course, without sounding too boastful). You worked hard for these degrees (with an excellent grade average of 1.3) and should be proud.

Manila job hunt

On the other hand, the option of moving to Manila is not a guarantee that you will find work other than teaching, but the opportunities will be more, vis-à-vis your "exceptionally different" set of qualifications. A lot of companies do have regional offices in Cebu City and should also be a good hunting ground for job seekers like you. There are quite a number of good local (Cebuano) companies. However, if you have an alternative living arrangement in Manila that can serve as your "temporary accommodation" while job hunting, then, by all means, go ahead and travel to Manila since this is where a lot of companies hold their offices/operation.

"Overqualified"

It is not difficult to see why companies will find it hard to match your qualifications with existing job requirements since very few office positions require applicants to have three master's degrees. Most of these companies would perhaps just keep your resume in their files for future reference. The practice of companies is to reply only to those with suitable qualifications which match their job requirements. The challenge is to overcome this perception of being "overqualified" and for you to present them with a compelling reason to at least "give you a chance to prove yourself" and to see your willingness to start from the bottom (even as an office staff) despite your credentials. You should express to them your high level of motivation in wanting to try a totally different field, i.e. outside or even away from the academe. You should express this willingness to start from the very bottom (as well as clearly stating your reasons) in getting an office job vs. academic-related work, in both your resume and most especially in your job interviews. Those who will see your resume will be worried on how a low-level office position can keep you motivated or challenged. You would have to convince them on your keen interest for an office job.

Sales experience

I remember a similar chapter in my professional career when I was moved to the sales department after 7 years with the company I was working for then. I was already occupying a production manager's position when the move came. I set my mind into "learning the ropes," starting from the bottom as a salesman-trainee, driving my own sales van, calling on customers, collecting payments and doing merchandising work in various public wet markets in the province. It came as a shock in the beginning but my love for dealing with people from all walks of life came out. I discovered my natural self as a salesman. My persistence, hard work and self-motivation paid off as I got promoted from one position to the next within a few years' time. Being a chemical engineer, I saw my professional calling in another field - sales (and only after seven years). This is why I also feel that something similar can happen to you.

Packaging yourself

The first thing for you to do is design your resume clearly, stating your job objective and the rationale for this. It is important that you are able to deal with yourself first on the reasons for your wanting an office career. Your motivation and future career plans will be important considerations. There are a number of companies involved in communications, training, public relations, print and broadcast media, and other similar fields (even in the booming call center industry) that may have a need for somebody possessing a strong academic and communications background. You can search these companies and seek personal job interviews as much as possible. Your unique case requires some explaining and personal selling. This should be an important opportunity for you to articulate your career wishes outside the academe. Remember, all that you are looking for is that one person/company that would be willing to give you a "break" or "open the doors for you". The moment you are able to get in, I am sure you can work your way up the corporate ladder. Your own self-motivation, determination and perseverance will be critical to keep you going despite starting from the bottom.



CEO mentor Santiago

I hope I have enlightened you with my thoughts and in sharing my own job experience. I am confident that your success in the academe will also happen in the corporate world. Good luck to your office job hunting and keep that smile on your face always. All the blessings!

(For career advice from our CEO columnists, mail your letter to the People at Work Editor, 4th floor, PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1200 or send an email to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph. Your letter/ email will be answered through this column.)

How do you deal with Generation X workers?

DEAR WW: I just hired a "twenty-something" to work in my department. He's a whiz on the computers but a challenge to manage. How do you deal with younger employees who think they know everything?

Don't Trust Anyone Under 30?

Indeed, the times they are a changing. Did you hear about the rock concert the Pope recently went to? The Pope's spokesman described it as, "an occasion for the Pope to spend time with young people and their music." The headliner was Bob Dylan. But let's cut the Pope some slack. When I'm 77, I'll probably see 56 year-olds as young, too.

But it sounds like the Pope isn't the only one with a few misconceptions about young people. Lots of boomers seem to have trouble with Generation Xers because their attitudes and working style are different. For advice, I turned to Bruce Tulgan's "Managing Generation X: How to Bring Out the Best in Young Talent" (Merritt, 1995). This GenX-er built a business advising corporations on how to deal with his peers. I can guarantee you two things: his book will give you lots of insight, and it will make you feel really old. I've adapted the following questions from it.

Can you look past the body piercing? If your employee comes into contact with customers, you should probably stick it to him (again!) and have him take it off. But if he doesn't, consider giving him room for self-expression. It just might provide extra motivation to put his creativity to work for you.

Can you focus on the ends (vs. the means)? Gen X-ers have an understanding of computers and the Internet that most boomers will never have. Take advantage of that! Instead of telling him how to do the task, tell him what you want and let him deliver the results. He's apt to show you a shortcut.

What does he value? Probably not job security. Most Gen X-ers have grown up believing there won't be any job security for them (or retirement benefits, either, thank you) because the boomers will have beat them to it. So they've come to value learning instead. Your best bet for keeping your 20-something happy? Giving him lots of chances to learn.

Is he starved for information? This wired generation only seems comfortable in a state of perpetual information overload. Corporations are usually pretty circumspect with information, though-so it's up to you to get him what he'll need.

What can you learn from him?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner



Think you're too old to learn from someone younger? Think again. These folks have grown up in a different world, with different skills and different values. Think of it as a cross-cultural experience that you'll both profit from.

The Pope seemed to learn a lot from his meeting with Bob Dylan. Afterward he even quoted "Blowing in the Wind" in his prayers. But I don't know. Given both their ages, maybe he should have been quoting "Knocking on Heaven's Door."

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: How do you rate Gen X-ers as workers? (494 total votes)

-Snooty, 17.6 percent
-Slackers, 28.9 percent
-Stars, 53.4 percent

Our winning strategy for dealing with Gen X-ers comes from G.M. in San Francisco. "Sigh...yet another column aimed at how 'normal' people can deal with those lazy, crazy, Generation X-ers. I can't tell you how sick I am of hearing that term! How about a column on how younger workers can deal with older peers who like to slap labels on them? Here's the secret: We 20-somethings came of age in a time where college scholarships no longer go to the needy or intelligent, and college costs are through the roof. That means most of us were working forty hours AND managing a full course load right out of high school. I doubt many baby boomers could have done that. We graduated to a world where many of us are classified as 'temporary workers' so our employer has an excuse not to give us health benefits or job security. American dreams? Just TRY to buy a house in the Bay Area before you're 40. And to boot, we have to deal with attitudes such as those in your column that try to pigeonhole us with negative traits we don't possess."

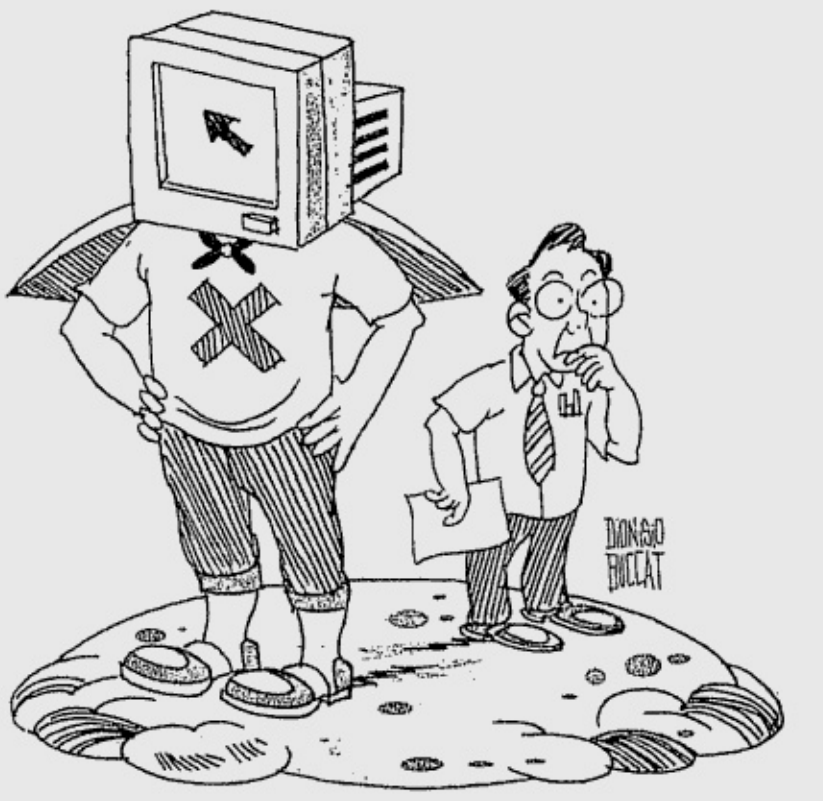


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Majority of Japanese worried about their daily livelihood

TOKYO— Some 67.2 percent of Japanese people said they were concerned about their daily livelihood, a government survey said Saturday.

The proportion of those who expressed pessimism over their lives rose by 3.9 percent from the same survey taken a year ago, the Cabinet Office said.

Only 31.5 percent of those surveyed said they did not feel worries, down 4.2 points from the previous year.

Of those who said they were worried, half said they have anxieties about life after retirement, especially regarding their financial and physical well-being, according to the survey.

Some 72.5 percent of those in their 40s said they were worried, with many middle-aged Japanese feeling economic pressures, the survey and news reports said.

"Amid the continued recession, there has been a nationwide push for reviews of pension payments and coverage of health insurance. Perhaps that's worrying many people," Jiji Press quoted a Cabinet Office official as saying.

Officials at the office could not be reached for immediate comment Saturday.

People in their 50s were more pessimistic about their future than those in other age groups, with 38.4 percent of them saying they think their lives will worsen.

The middle-aged are feeling the pressure of having to be the main pillars of society and the backbone of their workplaces, Kyodo News said.

They are also faced with the burdens of paying for their children's education as well as nursing care for their elderly parents, Kyodo said.

AFP

Urban sprawl makes Americans fat

WASHINGTON— You drive to work, you drive your kids to school, you drive to the grocery store— no wonder you have put on a few pounds.

US researchers said on Thursday they had quantified the price of living in sprawled-out American communities and weight gain leads the list—six pounds (2.7 kg) on average, to be precise.

Their findings, published in special issues of the American Journal of Public Health and the American Journal of Health Promotion, are aimed at urban planners, county and city councils and other groups involved in laying out communities.

"We found that U.S. adults living in sprawling counties weigh more, are more likely to be obese and are more likely to suffer from high blood pressure than are their counterparts in compact counties," Reid Ewing of the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland told reporters.

He said two-thirds of the U.S. population lives in counties covered in his group's survey.

Unlike people in old-fashioned urban centers who can walk to work, shops, and public transport, those in the spread-out communities cannot walk even if they wanted to because sidewalks and crossings are lacking and homes, schools and workplaces are far apart.

"For some people it is a 'duh' kind of issue, but it doesn't seem to be for a lot of people in important positions," Ewing said.

He said the research can be used to persuade policymakers to change zoning, funding and even lending laws to promote development that will encourage people to walk.

The researchers looked at U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data on more than 200,000 people living in 448 U.S. counties in major metropolitan areas. They assessed sprawl in each county using U.S. Census Bureau and other federal data.

"The average adult would be expected to weigh about six pounds (2.7 kg) more living in the most sprawling county in our sample as opposed to an adult the same age living in the most compact county," Ewing said.

The study found that people in far-flung communities walk less for leisure, but this factor did not account for all the weight difference.

"It may be as a result of the lower level of physical activity they get as part of their daily lives—driving to work, driving to school, driving to lunch, basically driving everywhere," Ewing said. *Reuters*

BUSINESS

Customs misses August collection target of $8.7B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Customs yesterday said it had missed its August collection target by almost P400 million, dimming hopes that the government could keep the budget deficit below its P8.115 billion target for the month.

But on a cumulative basis, the Macapagal administration is confident the budget gap will still be safely below the P127.115-billion ceiling for the first eight months.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, the government's biggest income-generating agency, said it could still hit its P37.972-billion target for last month.

"We are moving very close to the target. We already exceeded the year-ago collection by P3 billion. Last year we collected P34 billion," said Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno in an interview.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said the bureau was able to collect only P8.326 billion in August against a target of P8.72 billion. The Customs collects 17 percent of the government's annual revenue with the BIR accounting for 72 percent.

Bernardo blamed the demoralization of the workforce, arising from the lifestyle checks going on, for the lag in the bureau's collection. He, however said, he was still optimistic that tariff collections would improve this month as imports started picking up in preparation for the Christmas season.

"We are short of the target by P394 million and by P886 million, if compared with year-ago level. But on a cumulative basis, we are still ahead by P5.183 billion against the target for the first eight months," said the customs chief.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government would surely meet its P202-billion deficit target this year.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government likely exceeded the spending goal in August by about P3 billion. The government, she said, was using its P24-billion leeway in the first seven months to settle contractual obligations.

"Even if we exceed the spending target last month, we will still be within the deficit target. We plan to use up some of the savings from lower deficits in previous months," said the budget chief.

If revenue figures fail to overshoot goals next month, the government will miss its fiscal gap target in August for the first time since March, the only month so far this year when the deficit gap was breached.

From April to July, the gap between revenue and spending was kept below targets, enabling the government to contain the deficit at P95.4 billion against a seven-month goal of P119 billion.

The government must contain its expenditure at P59.57 billion while revenue must reach at least P51.455 billion to meet the deficit goal in August.

RP aims to boost auto production

THE COUNTRY hopes to ramp up auto assembly to reach 200,000-300,000 units a year within three years, the trade department said yesterday.

At least 150,000 units will go to the domestic market while the rest will be exported, Trade Undersecretary Gregory Domingo said.

Local assemblers now produce 80,000 completely-built up units yearly, all for the domestic market.

However, the local unit of US automaker Ford has begun producing vehicles for export while the local assembler of Japan's Honda has committed to do likewise by 2005, Domingo said.

He expressed optimism that two more assemblers would begin producing autos by 2007 for export as well, adding that the government was readying an incentive package for the industry.

The volume of 200,000-300,000 units a year is the level where the Philippines "will be able to produce economic quantities for the auto industry," he said.

The current level of 80,000 units is too small, Domingo said, adding that with such quantities, it would be easier to just import all vehicles.

Domingo also cited the recent passage of a law rationalizing taxes on motor vehicles which would further encourage local investment.

He noted that the government had also recently banned the importation of used vehicles although this was still being challenged in court.

Domingo expressed confidence that foreign auto companies would decide to expand production in the Philippines, citing the presence of "good support industries" and a well-trained workforce. *AFP*

SEC to counter court decision favoring ASB group receiver

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE COURT of Appeals has decided to stop the Securities and Exchange Commission from replacing the receiver of distressed ASB group, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista.

However, the writ of preliminary injunction has yet to be issued. A source said the court was still awaiting the posting of a P1-million bond by ASB receiver Fortunato Cruz.

Bautista said the commission would file a motion seeking the reconsideration of the court's decision.

But if the writ of preliminary injunction would be issued before the filing of the SEC motion, she said the commission would ask the CA to quash the order.

In line with a policy to limit salaries of receivers to only P50,000 a month, the SEC last June ordered the termination of Fortunato Cruz as ASB receiver and replaced him with lawyer Rosario Bernaldo.

However, Cruz secured a 60-day temporary restraining order stopping the SEC from taking him out as receiver. Before the receipt of the TRO, which expired last week, Bernaldo had already taken her oath as the new receiver.

Based on the CA's decision to issue a writ of injunction to replacing an earlier TRO, Cruz would have to post a P1-million bond.

SEC data showed that Cruz or the companies he worked for received a total of P15.8 million since he was appointed receiver in May 2000.

The SEC last June decided to replace Cruz after he indicated that he was unwilling to accept a monthly salary of P50,000, which is substantially lower than the P375,000 he had been receiving monthly from the company.

ASB had sought rehabilitation with the SEC three years ago after failing to service debts of around P12 billion.



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'Pirates of the Caribbean' plunders the box office

By Alexis L. Loinaz
Contributor

HEY mates, listen up: We hear there's a curse placed on pirate movies. It's a curse more sinister, more dreadful and more horrible than any other: It dooms these movies to stinking-bad box-office business. Zilch. Zip. Zonkers. (Remember "Cutthroat Island" or "Treasure Planet"? Nah, didn't think so.)

But with the release in the US last month of "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," it looks like the only curse to befall this movie is a really long title.

"Pirates of the Caribbean," which is based on Disney's popular theme-park ride (insert joke here), has silenced all naysayers. The film plundered theaters in its opening weekend, stealing away with over $46 million. It has thus far grossed over $255 million, becoming the surprise word-of-mouth hit of the summer. And it's well on its way to—gasp!—outgrossing the overhyped but underwhelming "The Matrix Reloaded."

More important, "Pirates" has been a surprising critical success. Although pundits aren't hailing the film as an artistic breakthrough, they have given it props for being a crowd-pleasing, old-fashioned swashbuckling romp. All

'PIRATES/ C4



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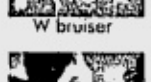
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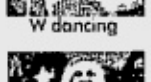

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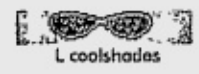


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REGENT THREE. Anne Marie Arrowsmith, Joyce Ramirez and Cornelio de Guzman


COCKTAILS in aqua. The Regent's PR wonder woman Annabelle Daokaew, Joyce Ramirez and Roselle Rebano


SILK REGENT. Sari Yap, Joyce Ramirez, Roselle Rebano and Annabelle Daokaew


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REGENT lifestyle. Sari Yap and Didier Picquot, GM of Regent


JIM THOMPSON'S Beverly and Sari share shopping tips.

A thousand and one spa nights

Conclusion



Tim Yap

FOUR hours after, we arrive at the Four Seasons Hotel-The Regent Bangkok, where we are received like royalty. "Do they know it's just us?" we inquire, as we see from afar the whole row of hotel executives (from GM to bell captain) lined up for the meet and greet. Hey, they must have thought we were some movie stars from Manila (**Sari Yap** as **Judy Ann** while me, **Herbert Bautista**). Later, I find out that it's really the Four Seasons treatment—they make guests feel like kings and queens.

"In the Four Seasons, the staff are really nice to you: They smile at you, look deep into your eyes, and call you by name. There is something almost spooky about them, almost like entering a strange parallel universe," as **Helen Fielding** (of "Bridget Jones' Diary" fame) pointed out in her Conde Nast Traveller article about the hotel.

Aside from oversized suites (they are so big that I want to throw a party there), generous amenities and fab service, another reason why I feel so at home at The Regent is because of **Annabelle Daokaew**, the Filipina PR manager of the hotel whose hospitality cannot be matched (she's married to a Thai).

Along with **Joyce**, she arranges everything—from hosting lunches and dinners at the hotel's hip spots to night-outs with local celebs and media. She's one hell of a wonder PR woman.

Thai Martha Stewart

One unforgettable night is with **Rapeephan Luangaramrat**, a controversial TV show host and celebrity chef. Think of **Martha Stewart** meets **Vicki Belo** with **Kris Aquino** hair from the '80s.

She is a wonderful hostess, sharing with us a fondness for fabulous food and fashion, touring us around her house (complete with elevator, spa and gym, with a portrait of her in Nike sweatband while exercising). We watch her TV show, sing with her over dinner and sing even more after. She sings "Anak" (by **Freddie Aguilar**) while **Vangie Baga-Reyes** belts out "Dancing Queen ("Bagong Kampeon" version)." Karaoke time— can Pinoys resist?

One thing about the Thais, they seem really proud of their leaders—posters of the Royal Family are everywhere. Our hostess' welcoming area has a giant portrait of the King. Can you imagine walking into a house here with a (not so) giant portrait of GMA?

After our victory in karaoke (thanks to Vangie's vocal calisthenics), we decide to call it a night. Well, not exactly. Us Pinoys will always think of shopping, no matter what time of the day—so off to Patphong night market we go. Fake LVs and Frank Mullers are not my cup of tea, so I decide to pimp-watch as life and commerce in Patphong went by.

Bangkok's best

The next morning, we head over to the Jim Thompson house and witness its amazingly beautiful fabrics (like our very own Silk Cocoon) interpreted into even more astounding fashion and furniture.

A full day's worth of shopping, and the others head for a foot massage at the Regent Health Club (open 24 hours) while the others head out for even more shopping.

I arrive late for the dinner hosted by Regent GM **Didier Picquot** and his lovely wife **Karin**. Cocktails in Aqua, appetizers in Spice market, main dish at Shintaro, desserts and champagne at Madison, Bangkok's best. Of course, this is all a primer to an even longer night of partying—but that's another story.

Just when you think we've run out of spas, here comes more. The following day, we hop to the blissful Devarana Spa (located at the Dusit Thani) and the intimate Grande Spa (at Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit).

At Devarana (meaning "garden in heaven"), my masseur has a hand the size of Asi Taulava's foot (the better to massage you, my dear). We have a large villa, soothing music and a breathtaking view. The lobby looks like a new age palace. The hallways leading to the therapy rooms resemble the setting in "The Matrix." I feel like Kobe beef after everything.

Healing moments

At the Grande, I have a Thai traditional herbal poultice (lemongrass-based, I think). The treatment has been used in the provinces for centuries—unchanged since the Ayutthaya period (14th to 18th centuries) when a hot pack was administered to soldiers (returning home from the war with muscle aches, pains and bruises). It proves to be a healing experience.

In between all this, we sneak into a Shangri-La dinner cruise around Bangkok and non-stop party action in Bed—a nightspot with, what else, beds all over! We spot Brit pop star **Gareth Gates**. In the end, it becomes a "party-all-night, spa-all-day" trip, but who's complaining?

I've always believed in balancing your indulgences. But after the serial stress of city life, there can never be enough-is-enough as far as spa and de-stressing are concerned. In a way, my innate massage skills only show that I have it in me to balance and check life's hassles and pressures. My Thai sojourn has only deepened those skills and emboldened me in my new mission—to touch people in the right—and sometimes the wrong—places. So any takers? Please!

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with douglas nierras and the powerdance
photographs by JUN DE LEON

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Is he truly in love with his friend or just longing for a GF?



Niño Mark Sablan & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Mark,

I have a very big problem. You see, I really like this girl. She's fun to talk with and is single. The problem is that she is my *barkada*. We've been friends for almost a year now and since we talk a lot on the phone, I've learned that she doesn't want to have a boyfriend who is her friend or who is taking the course she's taking. She also has feelings for a guy for three years now, although they have never been together. The guy confessed that he also has feelings for her, that is why she is still waiting for him.

The first girl I courted dumped me. The second, we got together but after two weeks she broke up with me because she still had feelings for her ex. I've been traumatized by such rejection and a girlfriend who loves someone else.

I don't know what to do. Should I tell her how I feel and risk our friendship and being rejected? Should I just swallow my feelings? Or should I just keep them and have this very pathetic feeling?

I don't want to lose her and it's okay if we're just friends. But how can I deal with these feelings? Am I just missing having a girlfriend? Do I just want to have someone for a companion?

MR. BENNY

Not wanting a boyfriend who's her friend or someone from the same major—stupid reasons. These are simply hints she wants you to understand. Add a guy whom she likes and likes her in return and it seems as if you have no pastel future together.

The series of rejections you've unfortunately been cursed with should not hinder you from exploring other possibilities. Don't wave the white flag or you'll never find the love you've been looking for.

This girl friend of yours, however, doesn't seem to be a likely candidate for some lovey-dovey, especially if you don't want your heart to be shattered into million pieces. The signs are all there, and I think you'll just end up suicidal if you pursue her.

Maybe friendship is the best form of relationship for you guys right now. Maybe it will even lead her to look at you differently. But for now, look for someone else to fantasize about. Someone who gives you more hope.

I guess you're right. You're just missing having a girlfriend. And it seems as if you're just settling for the nearest attractive girl around. Don't ruin the friendship by opening up to her, only to get rejected.

The awkwardness that will ensue will surely taint the friendship you have. Good luck, man. I wish you all the best.

MARK

Isn't it strange how all your friend's specific no-nos in men fit you to a T? Well, whatever her reasons are behind such particular demands are up for her to know and for us not to bother ourselves with.

The more important question to answer is, why did she tell you those things? It's normal to disclose to a pal the qualities of your ideal romantic partner, but if you tell such things to someone who either fits the bill well or, on the other hand, is a terrible misfit, then there's a more important message behind what you're saying. And in the case of your friend, she's saying clearly that if ever she'd finally want to have a boyfriend, you, and specifically you, won't be first on her list.

Don't be offended with what I've said. As a girl, I've used that trick before to subtly tell a guy that he doesn't exactly make my heart race. I'm sure that your friend was just looking out for your friendship and she felt that she had to nip your romantic pipe dreams in the bud before things between the two of you get ruined.

Don't be disheartened, either, as she can always change her mind. The thing here is she wants to keep the status quo of your friendship the way it is. For how long, we don't know, but you must respect her wishes because you really can't do anything else.

In the meantime, look around a little more and maybe you'll find someone better. You might be missing having a girlfriend, but think of your relationship slump as a period for screening the girls. It is actually when you are single that you are able to determine what and who you need. Make the most out of it!

Good luck.

SEPTEMBER

Free seminar on self-healing

"IN truth, no one and nothing can make a person unhappy without his or her permission," says BK Brij Mohan Anand, Indian journalist, Raja Yoga teacher and international lecturer. "When you come right down to it, the question of forgiving is really about your self-esteem."

He will expound more on this subject in a free public program entitled "Free to Forgive" on Friday, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Mondragon House, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Ext, Makati City.

BK Brij will discuss methods to transform hurts and pains into tools of healing and instruments with which to foster self-awareness, understanding, and happiness.

The program is a Brahma Kumaris community service. Call 8907960 (Sushila) or 9229231 (Vicky).



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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 3208, SERIES OF 2003

'Pirates of the Caribbean' plunders the box office



This movie has silenced all doubters with its commercial and critical success

From page C1

this for a movie that had absolutely no hype at the start of the season.

Now, as the film sails into international waters, it looks ready to continue its box-office conquest and pillage overseas markets.

"This movie is much more interesting because we didn't say anything," said producer Jerry Bruckheimer, who spoke with the INQUIRER in L.A. in June before the film opened in North America. "There was no bragging. We didn't talk about the budget. We didn't talk about anything. What I'm getting from groups is that they're surprised by it. They're surprised by the humor. They're surprised by how much fun it is."

Ironically, the film was a punchline waiting to happen, given that its source material is a theme-park ride that's over in 15 minutes. Stretching "Pirates" to a full-length feature—with an actual plot that could sustain it—would require considerable imagination.

Enter scribes Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, who co-wrote "Shrek." The two pitched a novel idea that put a twist on the tired, oft-told pirate myth: A band of pirates is on a mission to retrieve and return the cursed treasure it stole. Until then, they're doomed to live as undead creatures that turn into skeletons in the moonlight.

"When Terry and Ted pitched me the idea of cursed pirates, I got excited," says Bruckheimer, who initially turned down the first script Disney gave him because it didn't interest him. "This is really fresh. So you marry those two—the supernatural and a pirate movie—which I don't think anybody's ever done. That's a movie that I would go see."

The writing duo then fleshed out the film's storyline, about a renegade pirate who helps a young blacksmith save the girl who holds the last stolen treasure after she's kidnapped by the cursed pirates. Add to the mix director Gore Verbinski, hot off last year's hit horror-flick remake "The Ring," and the project was ready to hit the high (Hollywood) seas.

The film had no trouble attracting an impressive cast. It includes Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush as the leader of the undead pirates, "Lord of the Rings" elfin heartthrob Orlando Bloom as the noble blacksmith, and "Bend It Like Beckham" up-and-coming Keira Knightley as the feisty damsel the pirates hold captive.

The film's most inspired bit of casting, however, is Johnny Depp as the renegade pirate Jack Sparrow. Known for his predilection for quirky characters in quirky films ("Ed Wood," "Edward Scissorhands" and "Benny & Joon," among others), Depp seemed like the least likely actor to sign up for a Disney-Bruckheimer production.

Still, Depp has proven to be the film's main draw. The actor brings a frenzied energy to the film, giving a witty and engaging performance that is equal parts Errol Flynn, Keith Richards and Beetlejuice.

"In terms of choosing this material, I just loved the character," Depp told the INQUIRER. "I loved the script. I thought it could be something really, really good. The fact that it was Disney and Bruckheimer and all that stuff—that was just kind of, okay, fine."

(In fact, the actor's performance is so kooky and outré, Bruckheimer would get phone calls during production from nervous Disney executives wondering exactly what Depp was doing with the role.)

Getting the actor to actually take the part, however, was another matter. Bruckheimer said that in order to convince Depp, he flew twice to France, where Depp lives with his wife, singer Vanessa Paradis, and their two children.

Then again, the producer felt that Depp, who was the first actor on board, was worth the gamble. "When you get Johnny, he attracts other good actors," Bruckheimer said. "And I think that's why we got Geoffrey Rush, because he wanted to work with Johnny."

It certainly convinced British actor Jack Davenport ("The Talented Mr. Ripley") to get on the ship. The actor, who has a supporting turn as an English commodore, was initially worried that his character would become another sneering English caricature.

"I wouldn't have wanted to do it had it been that paradigm," Davenport said. "But come on! It's a pirate movie. In the Caribbean. With Johnny Depp! ... Johnny led and we followed. The great pleasure of doing stuff with him is that you never know what he's going to do next."

By all accounts, Depp tore into his role with much gusto. He based Jack Sparrow on Keith Richards, imbuing him with a larger-than-life quality that was a perfect fit for the character.

"It was pretty incredible, the amount of fun," Depp said of playing a pirate. "There were moments when we looked at one another and said, 'Man can you believe we actually get to do this? That this is our job?'"

He added: "I thought that these guys must have been, to some degree, about the myth. They all wanted to leave their mark. These guys were like basically the rock 'n' roll stars of the 18th century."

Depp's co-star, Keira Knightley, admitted that while she did have fun making the movie, she had one major adversary: her infamous corset (which figures in the film's trailer). "I have a thing about Scarlett O'Hara in 'Gone With the Wind,'" she said. "Her waist is 18 ½ inches in her corset, and I had this great idea that mine should be the same."

Knightley, who will appear in Bruckheimer's next film, "King Arthur," did get her waist down to 20 inches, "but oxygen deprivation is always a problem," she added dryly. "Turning blue isn't too great, and when my eyes started turning into the back of my head and I was falling down the stairs, [director] Gore said to me, 'Go and take the corset off.'"

The one perk about doing a big Hollywood film, however, was that Knightley had her own body makeup artist, who helped paint her a "very large cleavage." She added, laughing: "It would take 45 minutes because I really don't have a lot there. She would shade and paint it all in, and I'd then put a couple of chicken fillets—silicon things—in. And the end result is onscreen. But I was glad I could give them back at the end of the day."

Cleavage and corsets aside, there was also the challenge of staging intricate, oftentimes tricky swordfights. Bloom was already familiar with this, having worked on some nifty duels of his own on "The Lord of the Rings." (On "Pirates," he even trained with the same sword coach.)

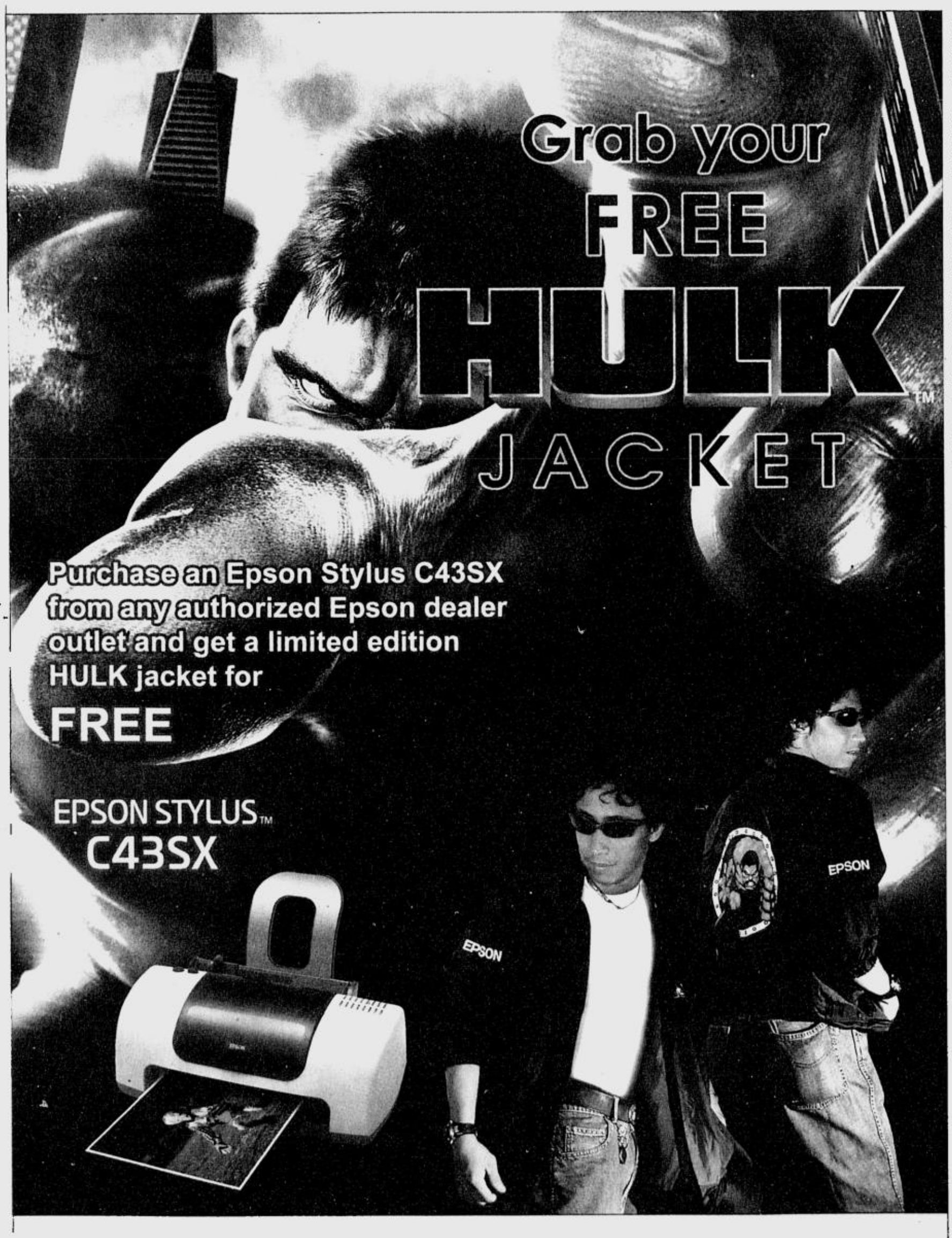
"Swordplay is like muscle memory," Bloom said at a press conference in L.A. where he spoke briefly before heading off to Malta to shoot the sword-and-sandals epic "Troy" with Brad Pitt. "It's like learning lines. The more you do it, the easier it gets to remember."

While Bloom survived with a few cuts and scrapes, Depp, on the other hand, had a ballsy close call. "Once during rehearsal," he recalled, "Geoffrey—not on purpose, I think—tried to skewer my groin area. It was a little too close for comfort. I wish we'd had it on film."

Depp's little run-in with Rush may not have made the final, uh, cut. But everything else that made it onscreen has proven to be such a crowd-pleaser—and a lucrative one, no less—that the film has spurned the inevitable: talk of a sequel.

Is there a franchise here? Bruckheimer said that Disney hasn't given him any money to hire a writer for a redux and that Depp isn't contractually obligated to do one. Still, he doesn't discount the idea. In fact, he seems to relish it.

"You know you always would like to have a 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' or 'Star Wars,'" he said. "Every producer would like to have a movie that people love so much, you could give it to them again."



Plumbing the depths of musical artistry

Plumb was ready to quit, but fate and an avid fan intervened

By Angelo Comsti
2bU! Contributor

WE could have lost Plumb's industrial-flavored pop-rock music a few years back were it not for a letter the singer got in one of her concerts.

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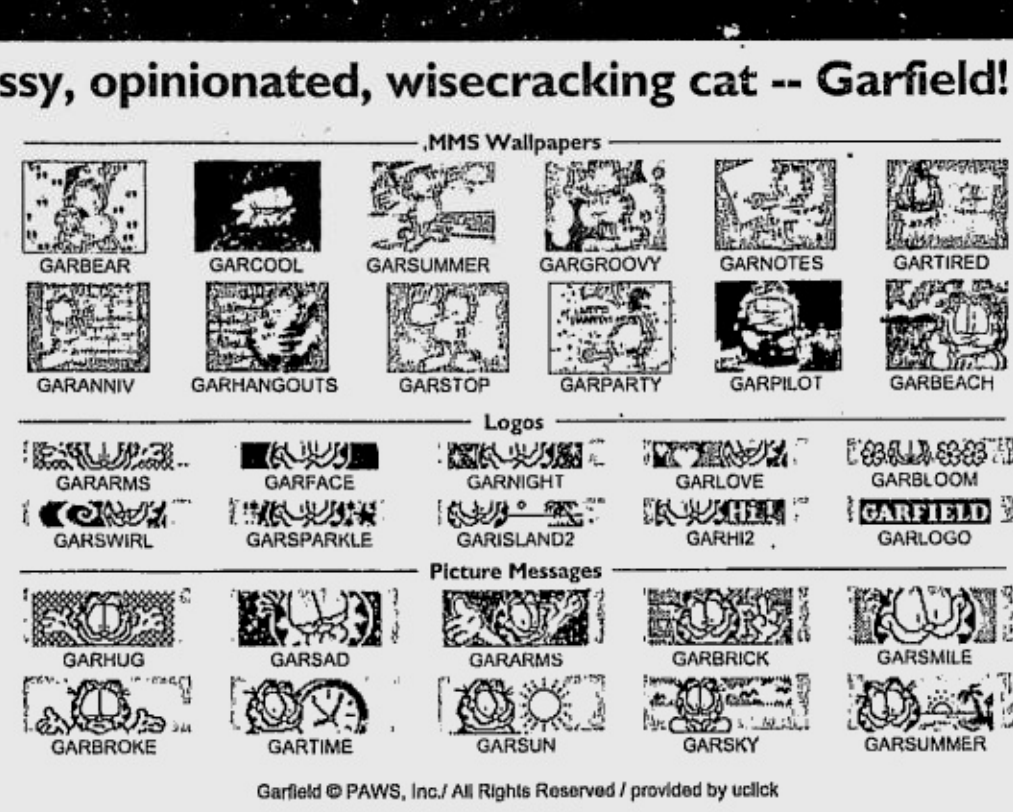
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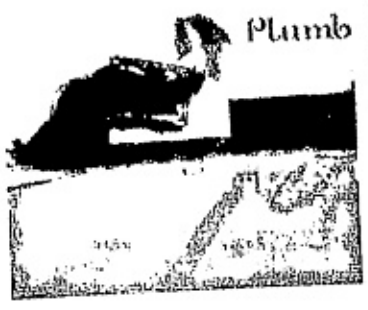
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Plumbing the depths of musical artistry

From page D1

At that time, it seemed that the crowd raves and impressive album sales could get the young artist to pursue her flourishing musical career. "I had been on my own label for two records and was being promoted as something that I wasn't," she recalls. "All the pictures, all the videos, all the interviews, everything was basically just me and then they would have some of my [band] players in the pictures sometimes; sometimes just as fill-ins. That was the record company's idea, and it created a big headache for me because it wasn't true to form."



The singer disliked how the company was marketing her "because it wasn't the real person that I have become. I was fed up with a lot of things in the music industry."

Thinking about making a Bakersville, California, gig her very last, Indianapolis-born Plumb (a.k.a. Tiffany Arbuckle Lee) was ready to give her voice a rest and write songs for other singers. However, fate and Briana, an avid fan from Oregon, intervened.

"A girl gave me a note that explained how a song I [wrote] called 'Damaged' (about a molested child) impacted her life," Plumb narrates.

Life-changing

Slumped in the back seat of a car, she read the message. "It shook my world. Here I am, contemplating not even doing this [singing] anymore because I had gotten a bitter taste in my mouth about the business. But it hit me. This wasn't about me. I'd been given a gift to communicate, to encourage and inspire. It's not up to me to say, 'I don't want to do that anymore.' It just really humbled me and changed my attitude. Her letter was really an inspiration to have a different mindset... That made me more open to signing another record deal."

She did just that when Curb Records made a tempting offer three weeks later.

After a four-year hiatus, Plumb comes back with "Beautiful Lumps of Coal," a 12-track album with evident maturity and heart. "It's the most me, the most real. It's the truest representation of me so far. Some artists have spent their whole lives trying to become artists and be in touch with that side. I wasn't. I had no aspirations to be an artist. So when I was 20 years old and someone sat down with me and said 'Do you want a record deal?' I had no idea what style I would do, what kind of songs I would write. So my first couple of records were almost me trying to find myself in the music industry. I was looking for my place. I think now I found my place and so I'm going to capitalize on that."

Starting young

At a relatively young age and only eight years in the business, Plumb has gone through several difficulties that more senior artists have not experienced. Asked how she found out she could sing, Plumb replied, "I think it discovered me."

Her first solo performance was at age three when she sang gospel songs in their neighborhood church. She made the rounds of coffee shops, nursing homes and homeless shelters until she was offered to do her first record and to do a live concert.

"It [singing] was just a hobby I loved to do. I never set out to pursue artistry. For a long time I thought I was gonna be a nurse. And I still may. I still may be a nurse someday. It's just one of the gifts I was given and I was given the opportunity to use it. When it evaporates then I will use another one. I don't want to ever stop growing."

In the meantime, she has her hands full promoting "Beautiful Lumps of Coal" and inspiring more people. "At one point, I thought I was here for them [the fans]," she says. "I realize now that they are just as much here for me (as I am for them). It's a partnership between artist and fan because I won't exist without them. And in a way, they won't exist without me because I'm supposedly the one encouraging them. But then they inspire me to encourage them, and so there is a partnership between my fans and me that I want them to be aware of.

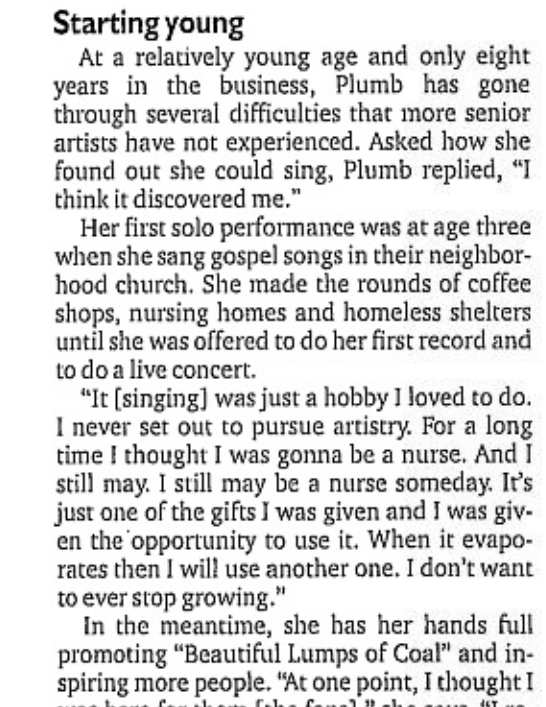
"Sometimes they feel like artists are cutting it out for themselves. I'm not. I'm really not. I have numerous songs inspired by the letters of my fans. Those songs wouldn't exist had a fan not been up front and honest with me and say, 'Hey, let me tell you something...' And so, I'm grateful to them."

Plumb reveals that the single "Sink n' Swim" in "Beautiful Lumps of Coal" is inspired by Briana's note.

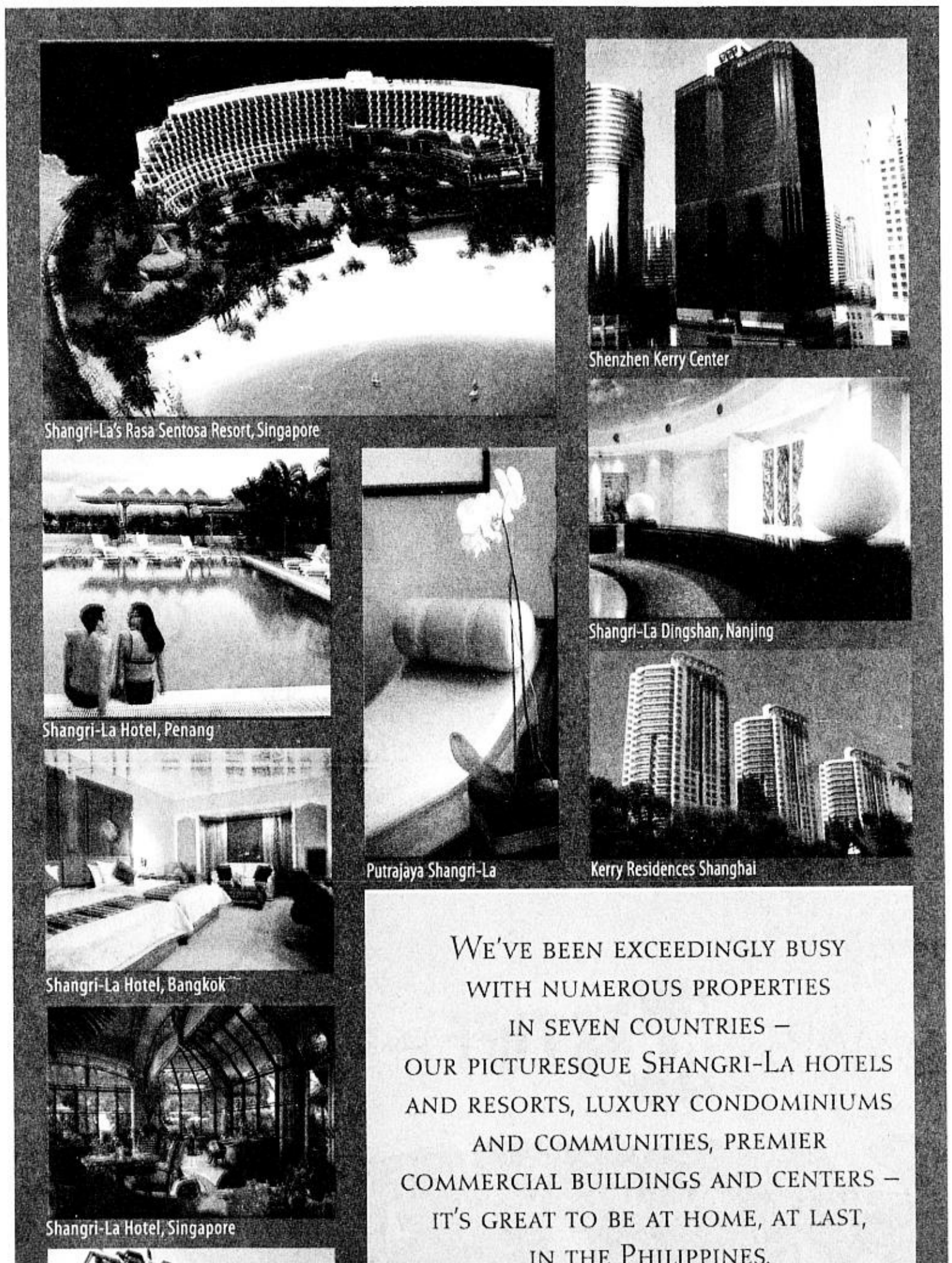
(A sudden rain/ Revealed your face/ I knew right then/ No matter where I go I'd have/ Your hand to hold)

"It is saying that you have these gifts and, come success or failure, I am in this with you no matter what."





"THEY would have some of my band players in the pictures sometimes... it created a big headache for me."



Metamorphose into a diva with the right makeup

How can you pull off a sultry and sexy Kylie when your beauty loot spells sweet Mandy?



A COMMON pre-hot night-out scenario: perfect outfit laid out, three-inch strappy stilettos polished to perfection, lip gloss with the perfect balance of naughty and nice... missing in action! It happens to the best of us, unwittingly ignoring the most important details of the "perfect look." How can you pull off a sultry and sexy Kylie when your beauty loot spells (sickeningly) sweet Mandy?

Take it from celebs like Kylie Minogue, Gwen Stefani and Kate Hudson. These effortlessly glam screen and MTV princesses know that the right beauty booty is all you need to instantly metamorphose into a diva. No boob implants or collagen injections required. Admit it, even the preppiest prepster wants to play diva once in a while.

For those occasions when sexy is the only way to go, Pout cosmetics should take centerstage on your dresser. One of the more "adventurous" labels in the market today, Pout has caught the attention and loyalty of some of the brightest movie and music stars (including Gwyneth Paltrow, Britney Spears, Eve, Drew Barrymore) since it was launched in 2001. With naughty product names like Lick My Lolly, Striptease and Raunchy Rouge, this London-based line will surely bring out the sex kitten in you. This done tastefully, of course, with subtle shimmer and understated colors—Pout has none of the trashy Vegas showgirl thing going on.

I checked out the spankin' new shipment of beauty loot at Beauty Bar in Rockwell and instantly fell in love. I'm no saucy Kylie, but I will share some of my faves anyway.

Lip gloss (P750). These tubes of delicious color are the reason behind the name "Pout." And, by Kylie, what a pout they give! Some opaque, some sheer, all yummy, each of the shades will lend you a different mood once you put it on. Be a dance diva with hot fuchsia, a mysterious femme fatale with raunchy red, or a subtle seductress with frosty pink. The possibilities are endless. My personal pick is a shimmer-packed nude called Sexy Girl. Truly sexy, it complements practically any makeup look, gives off a luscious shine, and doesn't drain color from your face like some nudes do—just what extremely fair girls like me need.

Lipstick (P750). Adorably-packaged and small enough for those tiny evening purses, Pout's lipsticks will give you color that will last you from your first Cosmopolitan to your last dance. Use under gloss for the ultimate staying power. Let not frequent touch-ups interrupt your little dance floor number or ruin your flirting momentum with the cute guy at the bar.

Lip polish (P750). A tad lighter and sheerer than lip gloss, Pout Lip Polish is the best lippie for day when you need just enough color and shine. I'll wear the clear Wet My Lips over subtle pink or berry to kick up the luster and bring focus to the lower half of my face when I have really dark under-eye circles (most of the time), or stash a tube (in a juicy color that matches my suit) in my tote for a day at the beach.

Eye shadow duo (P1,050). Definitely not for the faint of heart (or face), these palettes of bold color will steal the spotlight anywhere you go. Each has a combination of two contrasting shades (one matte, one shimmery); these shadows are best used at night. Daring colors stand out even with subdued lighting.

Eye slick (P1,050). I'll gladly show this off even when the sun is up. Eye slick comes in pretty pastels but are equally glam because of its gleaming finish. Very innovative, I consider it gloss for the eyes. My best bet for bedroom eyes? The transparent formula (aptly called Tigress) can be layered over any eye color or even worn alone for a uniquely "wet and wild" finish. The best part? It goes on comfortably, without the sticky sensation I expected, and can be used by gals with sensitive eyes.

Flush blush (P1,125). Blush in a tube, without any need for space-consuming brushes and sponges. A sexy, sultry, feminine look cannot be achieved without a sensuous flush, and these blush sticks give exactly that. Warm up your skin tone with a few dabs from the tube and blend for a pretty glow. Think the price is pretty steep? I say it's a worthy investment because it lasts virtually forever!

Shimmer pot (P1,050). The perfect finale for a glam makeover is a shimmery movie-star glow in all the right places. Apply a small amount of this fairy dust to cheekbones, the bridge of your nose, shoulders, collarbone, even your (ahem) cleavage for sex appeal that will baffle anyone who sets his eyes on you.

Feeling like a glamorous star? Visit Beauty Bar at Rockwell and Glorietta 2 and get ready to pout your way to sexiness.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

'Poetry as Soliloquy' at GSIS Museum

THE MANINGNING Miclat Art Foundation Inc., in cooperation with the GSIS Museum, will open the exhibit "Poetry as Soliloquy" on Sept. 4 at the GSIS Museum, GSIS Building on Roxas Boulevard.

The exhibit will showcase the late poet-painter Maningning Miclat's large-scale acrylic painting titled "Soliloquy" and some poems by the 2003 Maningning Miclat Poetry Award winners.

To open the exhibit are National Artists Virgilio Almario and Napoleon Abueva as well as the sculptors Jullie Lluch and Ramon Orlina.

Maningning Miclat's 44 ft x 8 ft mural, "Soliloquy," is a modern rendition of a traditional Chinese xieyi painting.

The poems to be exhibited are in Filipino, English and Chinese. They are written by Joselito de los Reyes, Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles and Mayo Uno Martin (Filipino); Naya S. Valdellon, Rodrigo de la Pena and Angelo Suarez (English); and Chen Pingsha (Chinese). The winners themselves will recite their poems in a program be emceed by poet, writer and teacher Mario I. Miclat.

"Poetry as Soliloquy" will run until Sept. 30. Visit www.maningning.com

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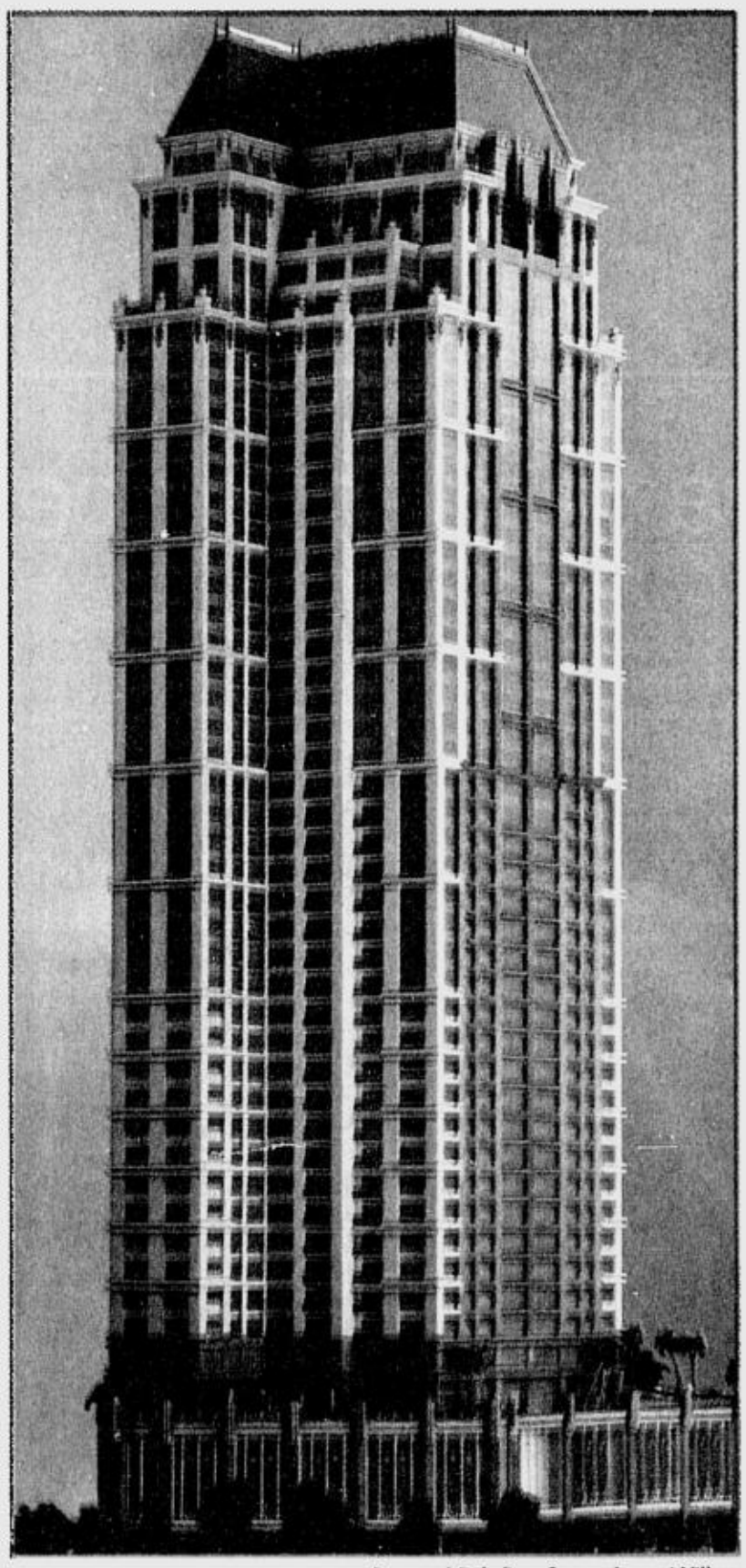
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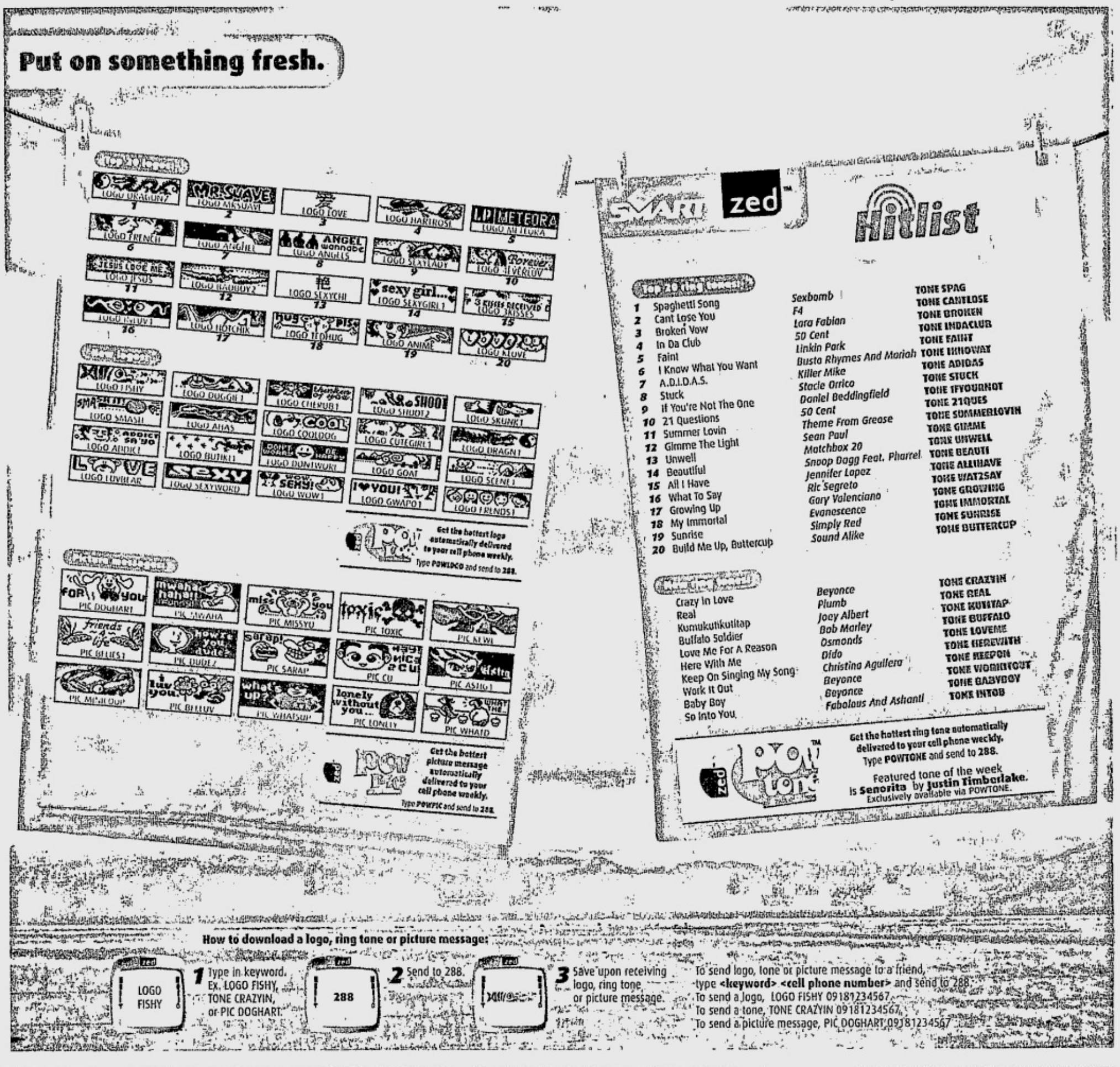
Spice Island @ 12nn: Bringing Down the House Rave Party featuring DJ C-Ko.

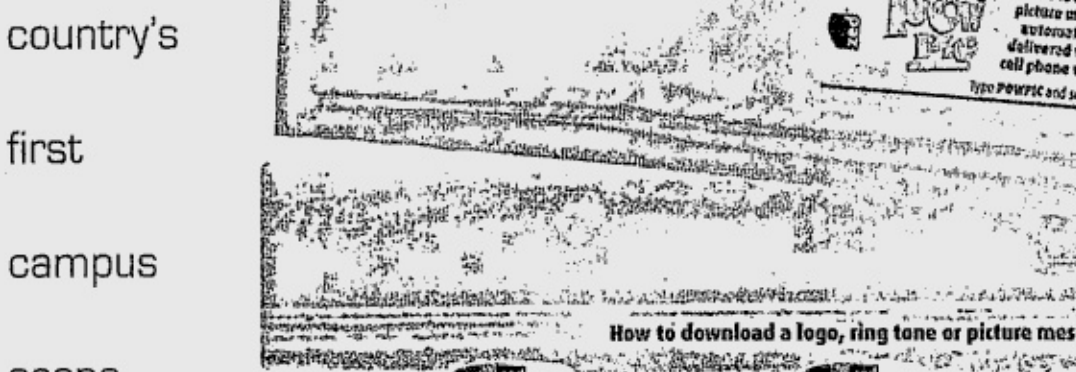
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The young and the restless and other well-wishers packed Temple Bar to toast another year of Chalk, the country's first campus scene glossy





ROMINA Urra, Jenni Epperson, Amina Aranaz, Melanie Cuevas, Jane Kingsu, Jocelle Evangelista, Robbie Carmona and Carole Cuasay

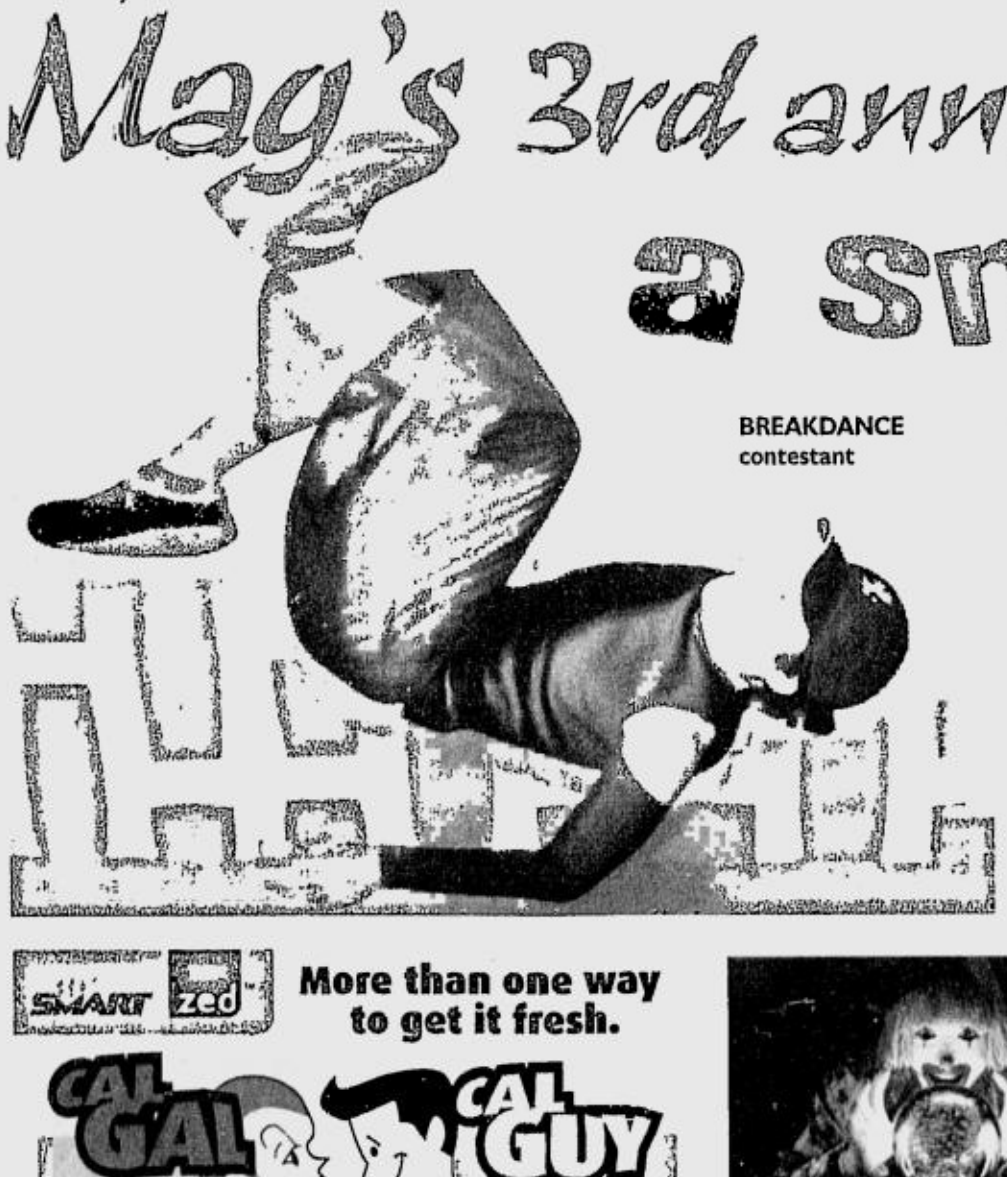
BEBETH Timbol with fellow partyphiles

VALERIE de los Santos and Bianca Valerio



GEORGIA Schultz

Mag's 3rd anniversary bash a smash



BREAKDANCE contestant

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

FUN and merriment were the order of the night as Chalk magazine threw recently a third anniversary bash at Temple Bar in Greenbelt 2.

Bracelets were inserted in some of copies of Chalk's August issue. Readers who got the bracelets also received invites to the party.

Young people, celebrities and guests packed Temple Bar and enjoyed free cocktails as they waited for the event to start.

Crowds milled at the open bar, courtesy of Jaegermeister and Artic Vodka, where celebrities like John Pratts and Mon Jose tended bar for the evening.

Hosts Rovilson Fernandez and Tricia Chiongbian got the evening started by introducing one of the highlights of the party: A fashion show featuring student models and stylists. Robbie Carmona directed the three-part fashion show, with students from various colleges modeling clothes from M(phosis, Levi's, Girbaud, U-Rustan's, etc.

In between the fashion shows, the hosts gave away gift checks from Zen Spa, M(phosis and other sponsors as game prizes. Group dancing and breakdancing competitions were also held, with the group Asian Street of Asia Pacific College and Jeremiah Carandang of the University of the Philippines Diliman getting P5,000 and P2,000 as winners, respectively.

Published by ABS-CBN, Chalk prides itself in being the first publication catering to college students. The magazine's slogan, "We've got your campus covered," says what it is all about.

Liason editor Jane Kingsu explained the magazine's name: "College is where you can try new things and experiment, find what you want to do in life. Like the... chalk, you

MAG'S/ E3



A STUDENT model





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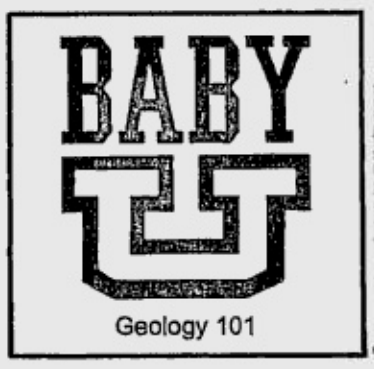
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

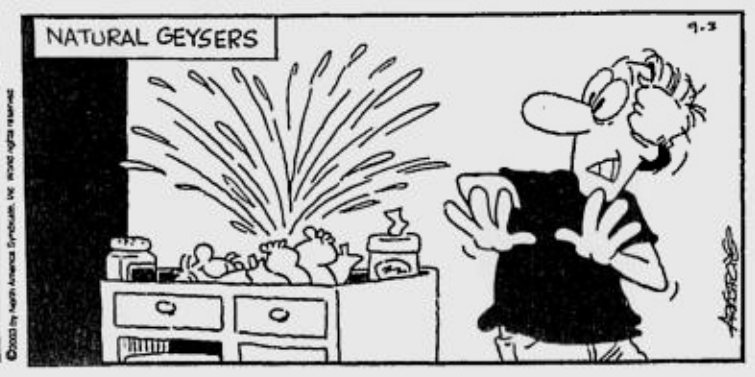


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG





PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



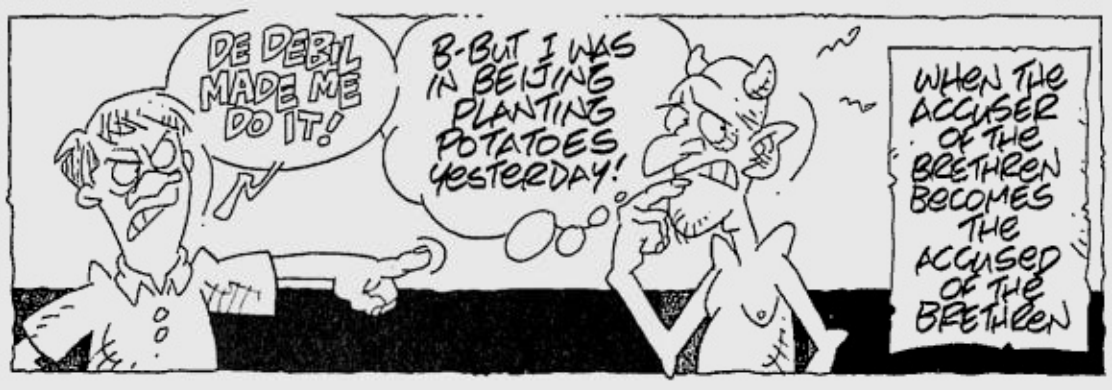
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are like a chameleon. You are multitalented and have a winning personality. Social success comes easily to you. Your patience and genuine love of others make you popular. People often misunderstand you, however. Get ready, because the year ahead can be one of the best years of your life. Cherished dreams will come true.
Birthdate of: Charles Sheen, actor; Valerie Perrine, actress; Eileen Brennan, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day for getting things done. You find it easy to approach everything with an orderly state of mind. Methodical care produces results.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have wise advice to pass on to youngsters today. Teach them that compassion, honesty and fairness are more important than anything they can buy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an excellent day to attend to home repairs and make improvements where you live. Similarly, you might be able to help a family member in a very practical way.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Whatever you do today, you will do it carefully, leaving no loose ends. You can easily tackle tasks that require concentration and perseverance.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day to make long-term plans regarding government business or anything having to do with large institutions. Your approach is cautious and careful, not rash.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone older than you has wise advice for you today. Listen to whatever is offered to you. You don't have to reinvent the wheel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It is possible that your serious and responsible attitude toward work today will attract the attention of your employer or your boss. This is a good thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an excellent day to seek advice from someone older or wiser. You are particularly curious about other cultures and how they think. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're ready to work today. Take advantage of this energy while it lasts, and accomplish as much as you can. You will not always feel this disciplined and dedicated to the task at hand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ruler, Saturn, is on wonderful terms with the Sun today. This makes it easy for you to have serious discussions about politics, religion, matters connected with travel and foreign countries, and higher education.

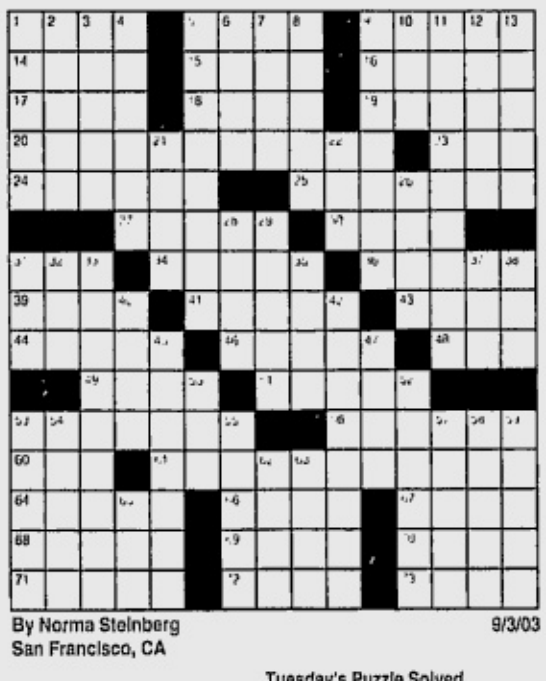
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is not a good day to relax; it's an excellent day to work. Whatever you do, you will take a serious and sober approach to things. (With this attitude, you can't lose.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Discussions with partners about children and the responsibilities for others go well today. People are ready to help you shoulder the load. Expect cooperation, and you will get it.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Hot tubs
5 Showy blooms, for short
9 Remove the bolt
14 Light bulb power unit
15 Incite
16 Concise
17 Graph or harp starter
18 Goose egg
19 Foolish folk
20 Radar screen reader's hypocrisy?
23 __-whiz!
24 Outgoing
25 Passenger payment
27 New Testament book
30 Bobbsey twin
31 Recede
34 Successful dieter?
36 Lorna of literature
39 Medicine container
41 Stinger's poison
43 Tiny insect
44 "Frasier" pooch
46 Fountain orders
48 Corporate abbr.
49 Ms. Turner
51 Timer button
53 Winding ways
56 Tire patterns
60 Globe
61 Film starring a snake?
64 Defamation in writing
66 Prod
67 Sleeper spy
68 Fred's first dance partner
69 Ticklish doll
70 __ Stanley Gardner
71 Made over
72 Actor Connery
73 Cherished

DOWN
1 Q-tips, e.g.
2 Sao __, Brazil
3 Top story
4 Don't do that!
5 Best wishes!
6 Over in Ulm
7 Griffin of TV
8 Unemotional
9 Said
10 Unused
11 Pasta for jailed sailors?
12 Fall blossom
13 View again
21 Jib or spinnaker
22 Trucker's perch
26 Aquatic croaker
28 Functions
29 Madrid mister
31 Seth's mother
32 Open an auction
33 Spoke off the cuff, but not well?
35 Went by car
37 Twin of 30A
38 & so on
40 Truth stretcher
42 Elephant's ancestor
45 Made possible
47 Dark Ages peasant
50 Alternative to lager
52 Abounded
53 Type of battery
54 Lion clan
55 Folk of wisdom
57 Put upon a pedestal
58 Perry Mason's Street
59 Villain's expression
62 Part of a shoe
63 Writer Janowitz
65 Yale student



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
9/3/03

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

V	A	L	O	R		V	E	R	O		A	B	E	S
E	X	U	D	E		E	V	E	N		C	O	R	N
R	E	S	E	W		L	E	N	T		I	O	N	E
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		T	A	R	O	T			R	E	U	S	E	D
P	R	A	V	D	A			S	A	I	N	T		
L	A	N	E		H	O	T	P	O	T		M	O	N
U	T	I	C	A		O	R	E		S	I	A	K	E
S	E	A		S	C	H	U	S	S		E	R	I	E
			C	H	A	S	M		O	B	E	Y	E	D
P	E	E	L	E	R			A	M	E	N	D		
E	X	X	O	N	V	A	L	D	E	Z		E	L	F
T	I	P	S		I	T	E	M		E	M	A	I	L
A	L	O	E		N	O	N	E		L	A	R	V	A
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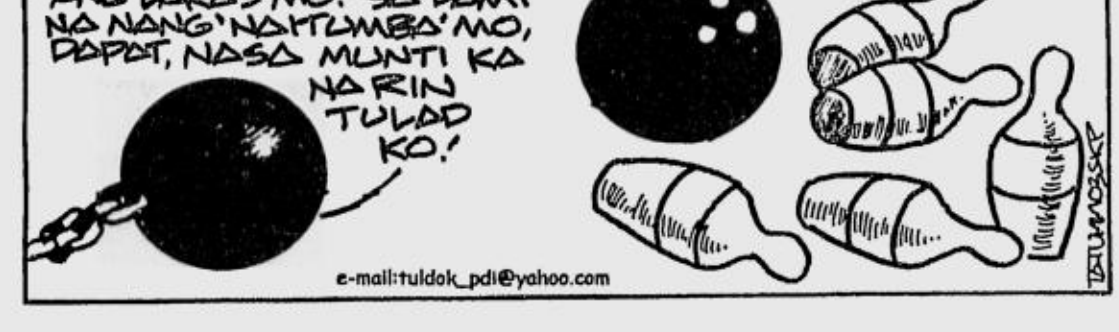
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Mag's ...



CHALK correspondents with ed in chief Romina Urra (center)

From page E1

are drawing your life, learning from your mistakes and growing from it."

The Chalk team, editor-in-chief Romina Urra-Gonzales, Kingsu, Vicky Florendo-Montenegro, Jenni Epperson, Amina Aranaz, Kathrina Casapao, Marjorie Akil, Mags Paguyo and official student correspondents, is optimistic about the magazine's third year. "Chalk has grown up a lot... We understand our readers more and we know better what they want," says Kingsu. "We are very excited about this year. We feel that three is a good number for Chalk," says fashion editor Eperson.



CATHY Azanza with Richard Perez, art director of Pink magazine

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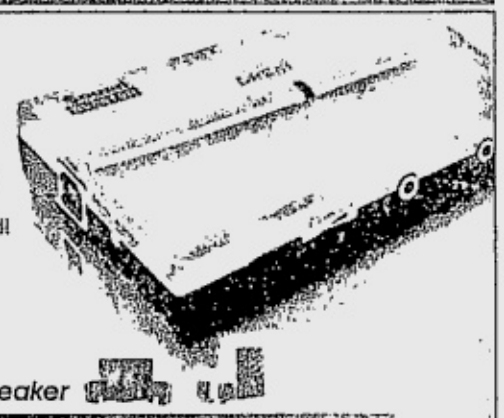
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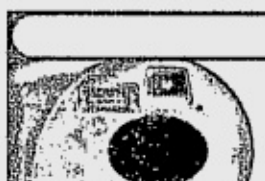
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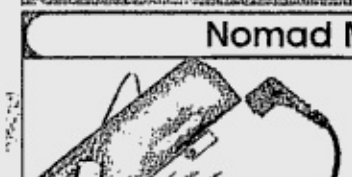
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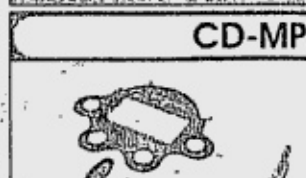
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Humor in the time of the Ayatollahs

"Persepolis"
By Marjane Satrapi
Pantheon Books

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

MARJANE Satrapi had Marxist parents and a great-grandfather who was an emperor. In school, she and her classmates tried to outdo each other by talking about family members who were tortured in prison—the one whose relative suffered the most won.

Needless to say, it was a normal childhood in very abnormal times.

After learning about (and shuddering at) the Ayatollahs' regime in Iran through reports by media people and historians, the world is now seeing it through the eyes of a spirited little girl. This version of the same story is more deeply personal and unexpectedly funny.

Satrapi, now an established illustrator residing in France, wryly recounts her childhood in Iran in her illustrated biographical novel "Persepolis."

The book is about growing up in revolutionary and wartime Iran. "Persepolis" draws the humor and heartbreak from Satrapi's recollection of how odd it was to be a child or a teenager during those turbulent times.

At one point, little Satrapi declares that she wants to become "God's last prophet" when she grows up. But she realizes that the other prophets may not feel happy about her fabulous ambition since she is a girl.

In another slide, Satrapi's parents are caught in a dangerous dilemma as they try to smuggle a "degenerate" rock band poster for Satrapi under the noses of the religious police in the airport. The mother ingeniously stitches the poster inside the father's coat, and they enter without any hassle. One can almost imagine the family chuckling over her ingenious idea afterwards.

Under the rigid rule of the Ayatollahs, drawing humor out of trauma seems like a good way of coping.

The graphic presentation of the story perfectly suits "Persepolis." At first, the illustrations seem to be more suited for children's books rather than a political parody. But with the stark black and white images, Satrapi more effectively conveys the innocence of her youth amid the rigid system.

By presenting her memories in sketches, Satrapi shows us how human beings react to uncertain times. It is comforting to see that she does it with hope and intelligent hilarity.

E-mail the author at elicano_ar@yahoo.com

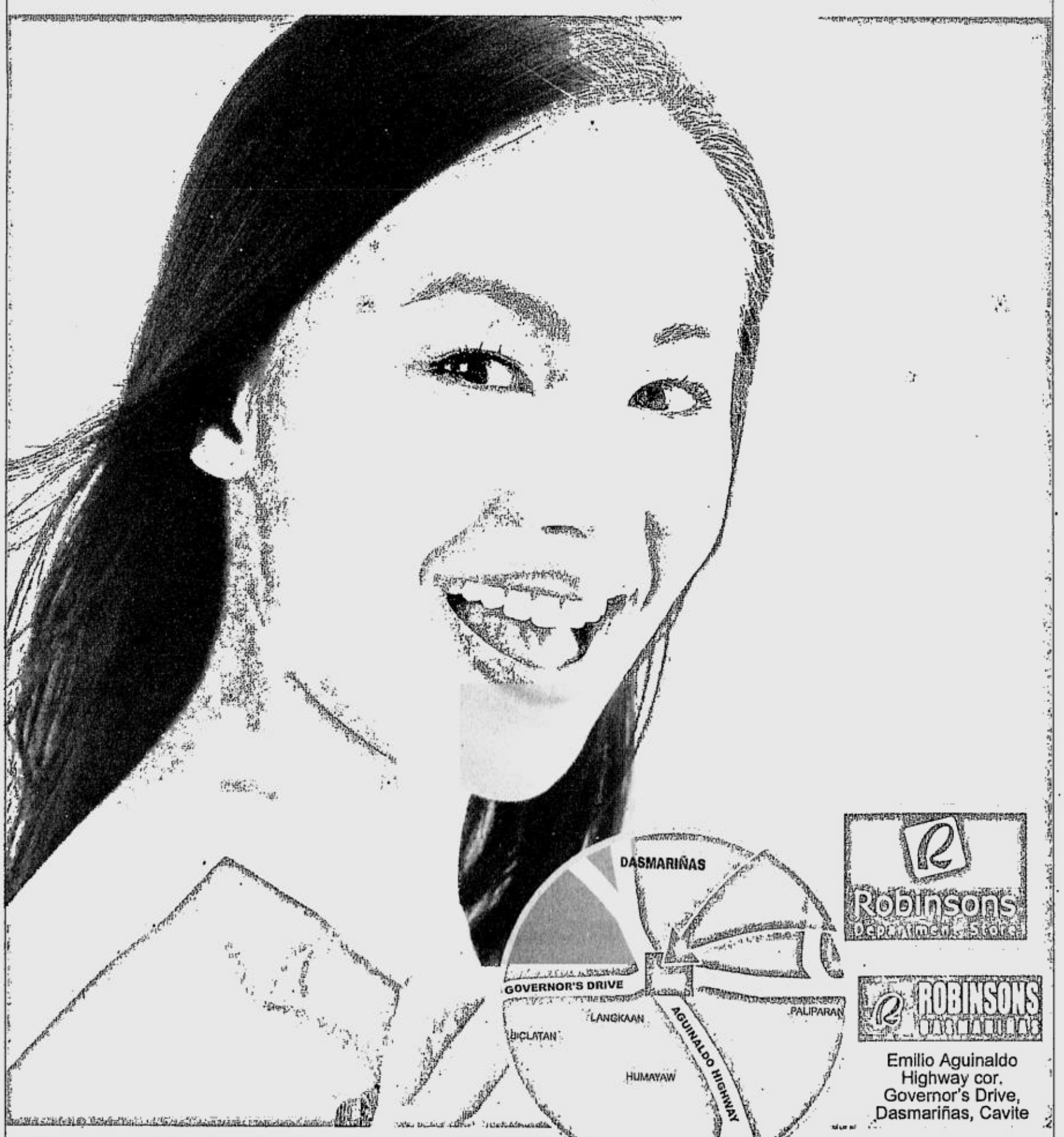
Growing up in Ayatollah-ruled Iran author finds humor in the rigid regime



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Fashion everyday

The metal militia returns

By Emanuel V. Papa
2bU! Correspondent

AFTER 1991's "Black Album," Metallica turned down the volume with two stripped-down studio releases, "Load" and "Reload." The albums contained the hits "Fuel," "King Nothing" and "The Unforgiven II."

The possibility that the band would return to its "ride the lightning-aggression" sound seemed remote as its contribution to the MI:2 soundtrack, "Disappear," sounded a bit un-Metallica-esque.

But in the band's latest effort, "St. Anger," Metallica resumes its concrete-crushing rampage in the 11 new tracks that present the band that perfected heavy metal in its rawest.

Frontman James Hetfield can still shout out growls of fury even though there's now an obvious strain to his voice. Not being studio-enhanced, the voice does not sound as thunderous as before, but when he spits out "ooh, I die a little morrrrre—ah!" there's no question it's Hetfield.

In its new album, Metallica resumes its concrete-crushing rampage

Guitarist Kirk Hammett seems to be absent in this album. But while there are no catchy guitar solos for him, he teams up with Hetfield to create a pure, rough electric juggernaut. Bassist Jason Newsted has left the band but producer Bob Rock fills in to complete the recording. They also tap the services of former Infectious Grooves and Suicidal Tendencies member Robert Trujillo. I've seen him play in MTV Icon: Metallica. With a headhunter visage and overflowing adrenaline, he fits seamlessly with the metal-heads.

Lars Ulrich is still creatively powerful in pounding the drums, though the set he used in this album sounded more like gigantic biscuit cans.

"St. Anger" opens with the "rumble-pause-rumble-pause" riff of "Frantic," setting the pace of the album with its speed metal atmosphere. The second track and title song, "St. Anger," is a somewhat positive view on anger (St Anger 'round my neck/ he never gets respect/ ... I want my anger to be healthy/ I want my anger to be me).'

"Sweet Amber" kicks off with a good guitar scratch a bit similar to a riff from their classic hit "Fade to Black." In "Dirty Window," Hetfield bellows the lines "Projector! Protector! Rejector! Infector!" like a colossal cyborg, with help from Hammett's crunchy guitars. The track "Invisible Kid" is typical Metallica about being left out, but this is not a metal ballad.

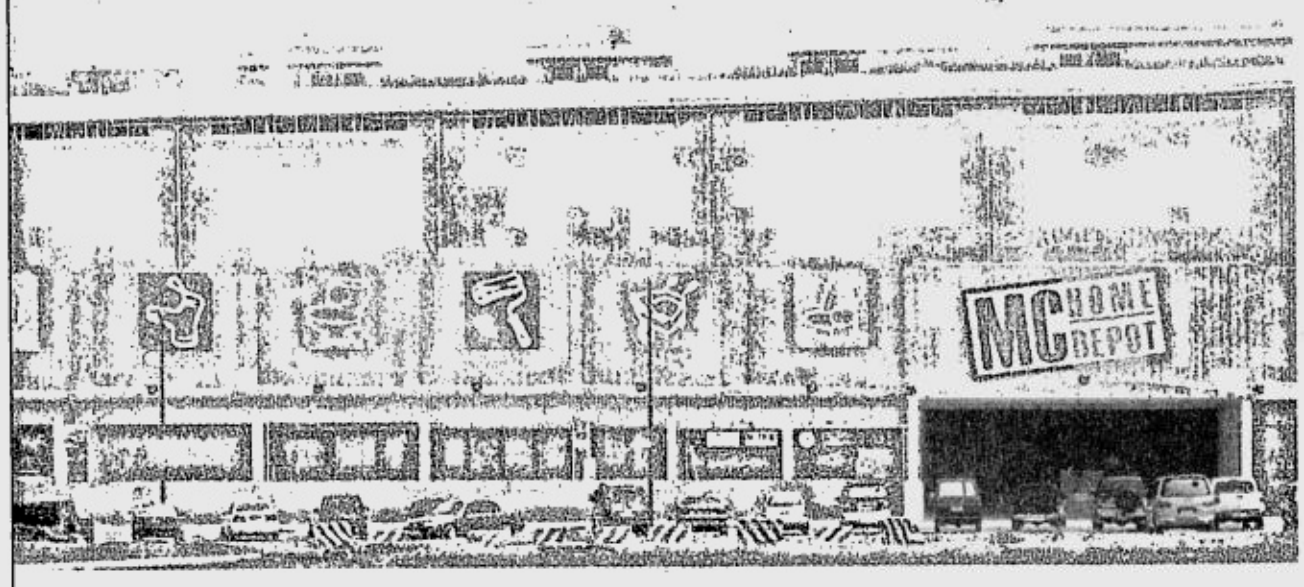
The groove to the lines "Invisible Kid/Locked away in his brain/From the shame and the pain/World down the drain" feels like a forgettable rock and roll ditty.

Overall, the album is a package of hulking force. Devoted fans may find "St. Anger" more of an industrial-metal rumble rather than the usual cosmic onslaught that Metallica dishes out. Poetic and sometimes prophetic lyrics are replaced with more personal sentiments (If I could have my wasted days back/ would I use them to get back on track?).

The album (as with Hetfield's voice) is not studio-enhanced so you won't hear some voice-overs or a typical echo on Hetfield's roars. This proves that these head-bangers can use different formulas but still be on top of the heavy metal scenario. They have every right, for they are Metallica.

MC Home Depot

Fort Bonifacio

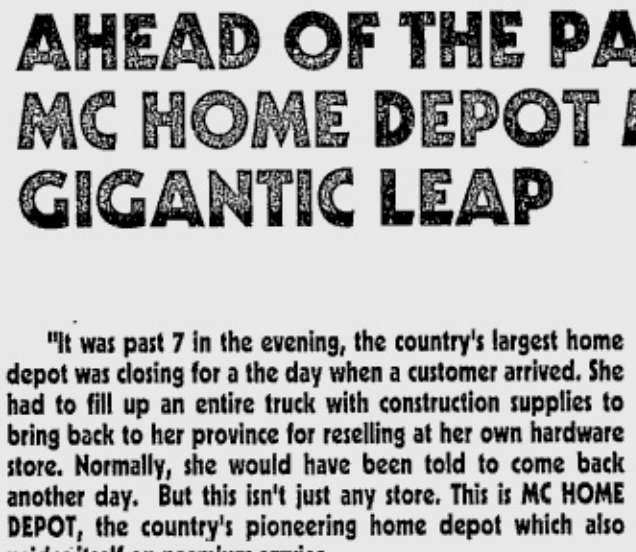


AHEAD OF THE PACK: MC HOME DEPOT MAKES ANOTHER GIGANTIC LEAP

"It was past 7 in the evening, the country's largest home depot was closing for a the day when a customer arrived. She had to fill up an entire truck with construction supplies to bring back to her province for reselling at her own hardware store. Normally, she would have been told to come back another day. But this isn't just any store. This is MC HOME DEPOT, the country's pioneering home depot which also prides itself on premium service.

"We try our best to accommodate our customers, even if that means we have to extend our opening hours..." says Lawrence Chung, Vice President for Operations of MC Home Depot.

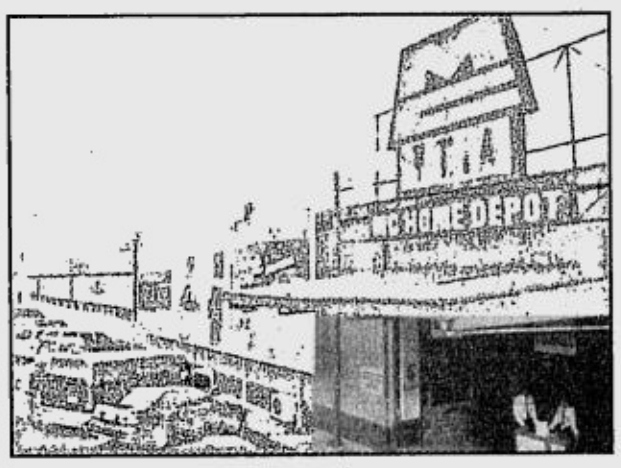
It is a policy appreciated by many of their buyers, especially those coming from the provinces like Quezon, Bicol, Palawan, and even as far as the Visayas just to name a few. These are dealers, professionals and homeowners who expect value for their money.



MC Home Builder's Depot
Makati

"Our objective is to help our valued customers appreciate the good things in life each time they pay us a visit", says Monique Chung, EVP of MC Home Depot. As MC grew, it has established itself as by-word not only in the hardware industry, but in the general business community as well.

MC also lends its support to students of architecture, engineering or interior design by way of inter-scholastic competitions, product orientations and educational tours around the store. MC encourages and accommodates exhibits in line with landscaping, interior designing, home improvement and the likes.



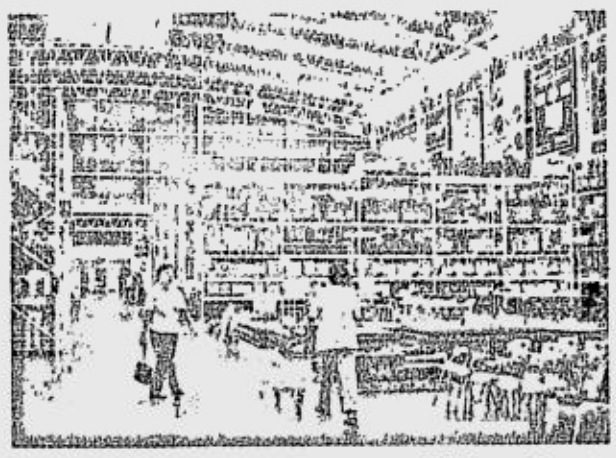
MC Home Depot
Ortigas

If you belong to the working class and only have a limited time to shop, MC is the store for you. They are open everyday and most holidays. Deliveries are scheduled everyday including Sundays. Moreover, no membership fee is required, and accommodating sales personnel are always on hand to assists our valued customers.

The newest MC HOME DEPOT is at Fort Bonifacio, Global City, where customers can treat themselves to the ultimate shopping experience. MC is also known for the myriad of showrooms it has on every branch it opens. These are specialty stores similar to trade exhibits, only they are more on a permanent basis.

MC is a home depot in the truest sense of the word. Looking for quality materials need not be a headache or a burden on the pocket. Whether you're a contractor, an architect, an engineer, an interior designer, a dealer or a homeowner, Making beautiful homes is easier with MC HOME DEPOT...

"The Professional Builder's Choice!"



MC Home Depot
Fort Bonifacio

Messages



I extend my most cordial congratulations to MC HOME DEPOT on the opening of its third and largest branch at the Fort Bonifacio, Global City.

Providing a home for every Filipino family has always been one of the top priorities of the government. Your theme, "Build Your Dream", manifests your commitment to nation building and in making that dream a reality for all.

I trust that your invaluable participation in our efforts to provide opportunities to make each home a better place to live in will greatly contribute in uplifting the lives of our people.

I wish the success of this venture. May you be one with the government as we strive to build a strong Philippine Republic.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

(Sgd.) Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines



Congratulations to the men and women of MC Home Depot, headed by Mr. George Yung, for the opening of its third and biggest outlet at the Fort Bonifacio Global City!

For several years now, MC Home Depot provided the Filipino with the most affordable, convenient, and high quality products from various suppliers and manufacturers, making it a complete one-stop for all construction material requirements.

The government fully supports all the measures that will boost the country's growing economy. With the success of your first two branches along Pasong Tamo in Makati and Meralco Avenue in Pasig, it is my hope that your expansion will be a success as well.

More Power!!! Mabuhay kayong lahat!!!

(Sgd.) Franklin M. Drilon
Senate President



Congratulations to the management and staff of MC HOME DEPOT on the opening of its third and biggest outlet at the Fort Bonifacio Global City on September 3, 2003.

I am glad that MC HOME DEPOT remains faithful to its commitment to make Filipino homes more comfortable and secure. There's no place like home, so the saying goes. The home is not merely a place for comfort and well being as it is where one's values begin to be molded.

Being the leading store for construction and building materials, hardware equipment and accessories, and various home improvement, MC HOME DEPOT, I am sure, will be ready to face the new challenges and changing needs of the housing industry.

May you continue to be the government's active partner in our effort at providing a better quality of life for the Filipino.

Mabuhay kayo!

(Sgd.) Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Speaker
House of Representatives



Our warmest greetings to the MC Home Depot on the Grand Opening of your third and biggest outlet at Fort Bonifacio Global City on the 3rd of September 2003.

This adds to the list of venues where MC Home Depot can serve the needs and promote the welfare of the Filipino consumers in Metro Manila who require construction and building materials, hardware and accessories and various types of home equipment.

With the emergence of an exacting Digital Economy, the need for precision and accuracy in industrial, technical and business operations and processes becomes even more imperative as the international market becomes increasingly intolerant of substandard products and services. This underscores the relevance of establishments such as MC Home Depot -- which showcases tools, equipment, hardware supplies and materials towards keeping local companies and households abreast of and gain access to the latest trends and developments in the construction, building and hardware technology. Likewise, it gives the Filipino market an opportunity to assess and test practical self-help kits and aides that are geared towards upgrading convenience, efficiency and productivity in home, industrial and business operations.

To the MC Home Depot, our sincere congratulations and best wishes! Mabuhay!

(Sgd.) Sec. Mar Roxas
Department of Trade and Industry



I would like to extend my congratulations to the men and women of MC Home Depot on the opening of its third and biggest outlet at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

With the widest range of products for home builders, building contractors, interior designers, and arts and crafts hobbyists, MC Home Depot plays an important role in the housing and construction industry. Its expansion is certainly a welcome development as we move on with our programs to provide adequate shelter for the Filipino people.

My best wishes to your newest venture, and may you continue to serve the Filipinos' housing needs.

(Sgd.) Sec. Michael T. Defensor
Chairman
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council



Warmest felicitations and congratulations to the management and staff of the MC HOME DEPOT on the occasion of the grand opening of its third and biggest outlet on September 3, 2003, at the Fort Bonifacio, Global City.

It is indeed heartening to note that the MC HOME DEPOT, despite the adverse business climate that has been brought about by recent adverse developments, has been able to realize its objectives for expansion and pursue, with greater vigor, its commitment to the provision of quality construction/building materials, accessories and various housing equipment to the Filipino consumer. You have proven that growth and development could be achieved even in the most difficult times, and it is my hope that you will continue to hone your competitive tools and remain steadfast in your pursuit for excellence, for in doing so, you will not only bolster the strength of your company but also propel the progress of the entire national economy.

More power and mabuhay!

(Sgd.) Bayani F. Fernando
Chairman
Metro Manila Development Authority



Congratulations, MC Home Depot on the opening of your third and biggest outlet at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

MC Home Depot provides an assortment of building materials and serves as a warehouse where one can scout for technical and artistic designs for home improvement needs.

The services provided by MC Home Depot's various outlets create something of value for the capitalists and investors, producers and suppliers, as well as the various consumers who are looking for the best options in housing and constructions.

May you continue to provide value-added service to the public.

(Sgd.) Cong. Prospero C. Nograles
Chairman
Committee on Housing & Urban Development



I extend my congratulations to MC Home Depot for the continued growth of your company as you open your third and biggest outlet in our municipality.

To the officers and employees of MC Home Depot, it is with great pride that I welcome you to Taguig as you become one of our partners for economic development in Fort Bonifacio.

Let us work together in turning our dream for a progressive Taguig into a reality and help in the upliftment of the lives of the Filipinos in general.

Mabuhay!

(Sgd.) Sigfrido "Freddie" R. Tiñga
Mayor
Municipality of Taguig



The United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) wishes to convey its heartfelt congratulations to the MC HOME DEPOT on the occasion of the Grand Opening Celebration of its third and biggest outlet.

Your expansion -- third outlet, provides readily available and accessible building materials to us architects and builders. Surely, our very dynamic and very active members of the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) welcome this positive development.

In behalf of the UAP National Board, I sincerely extend our congratulations!

(Sgd.) Arch. Robert S. Sac, fuap
National President, UAP

Warm greetings to all!



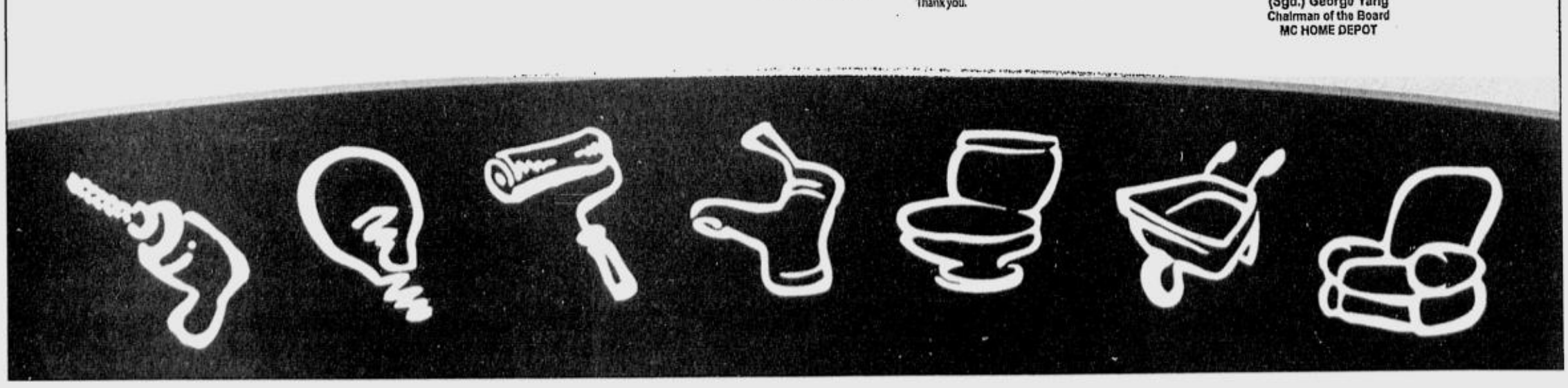
MC HOME DEPOT, on the opening of its third and biggest outlet at the Fort Bonifacio Global City, reiterates its commitment to serve all customers to the fullest, offering the convenience of a complete one-stop haven, with the widest variety of quality home building products at reasonably low prices.

In line with our theme, "Build Your Dream", it is with great pride that I welcome you to all our outlets as you turn your dreams to reality. MC HOME DEPOT is happy to extend our Filipino way of serving you. Indeed, rain or shine, we are always here for you.

And on behalf of the officers and staff of MC HOME DEPOT, please accept our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all of you, our customers, our business partners, benefactors, sponsors, and friends who have supported us and continue to do so all these years.

Thank you.

(Sgd.) George Yang
Chairman of the Board
MC HOME DEPOT



September 4 to 14, 2003

MC HOME DEPOT

Double Celebration Sale

Grand Opening Fort Bonifacio

Makati Anniversary

Ortigas Anniversary



Shop & join our Raffle Promo for a chance to win one of the following:

20 Winners-Flatron 53.34 cm (21") Colored TVs - Cable Ready 20 Winners - Toshiba .21 m³ (7.1 Cu. Ft.) Refrigerators
20 Winners - York .746 kwh (1.0 HP) Window Type Aircons

1. Every P 1,000.00 purchase (in a single or accumulated receipt, provided the purchase was made within the same branch within the promo period) entitles the customer to one (1) raffle coupon.

2. To claim the raffle coupon, just present receipt/s to the customer service of the branch where the receipt/s was issued.

3. Customers must write their name, address, contact number & affix signature on the raffle coupon & drop it in designated drop boxes located at the lobby of the branch where the raffle coupon was issued & where the purchase was made. All entries must be in the drop boxes by 7:00 P.M. of September 14, 2003.

4. Raffle draw will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2003 at MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig at 4:00 P.M. Prizes at stake at the raffle are:

   For MC Home Depot - Fort Bonifacio
   Ten (10) winners Flatron 53.34 cm (21") colored TV - Cable Ready
   Ten (10) winners YORK Window Type Aircon .746 kwh (1.0 HP)
   Ten (10) winners Toshiba .21 m³ (7.1 Cu. Ft.) Refrigerator
   For MC Home Builder's Depot - Makati
   Five (5) winners Flatron 53.34 cm (21") colored TV - Cable Ready
   Five (5) winners YORK Window Type Aircon .746 kwh (1.0 HP)
   Five (5) winners Toshiba .21 m³ (7.1 Cu. Ft.) Refrigerator

   For MC Home Depot - Ortigas
   Five (5) winners Flatron 53.34 cm (21") colored TV - Cable Ready
   Five (5) winners YORK Window Type Aircon .746 kwh (1.0 HP)
   Five (5) winners Toshiba .21 m³ (7.1 Cu. Ft.) Refrigerator

   A DTI Representative will be invited to witness the draw.

5. A participant may only win once per branch. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, the prize of higher value shall be awarded to him/her.

6. All prizes are non-transferable & non-exchangeable to cash, credit or kind.

7. 20% tax for prizes exceeding P 10,000 shall be shouldered by MC Home Depot.

8. Winners will be notified through registered mail & telephone. Prizes can be claimed at the Administration Office of the MC branch where the purchase was made as specified on the registered notice of the winner claimants.

9. To claim their prizes, winners must present their letter of notification from MC Home Builder's Depot in Makati, MC Home Depot in Ortigas or MC Home Depot (Fort Bonifacio), a valid I.D. (i.e. passport, driver's license, voters affidavit, SSS/TIN card) & the raffle claim stub for verification.

10. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI.

11. Employees of MC Home Builder's Depot (Makati), MC Home Depot (Fort Bonifacio) & MC Home Depot (Ortigas) both its suppliers & tenants, their advertising agencies including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are not allowed to join the promotion.

12. Promo period is from September 4 to 14, 2003 only.

13. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3460, series of 2003.

"Our edge, your advantage"

MC HOME DEPOT Makati • Ortigas • Fort Bonifacio

uni-AIR	USG Ceilings	DELTA.	ROBINS European & Asian Tiles
HOMEBASE PRODUCTS MOULDINGS & LUMBER	Shell Canvas INTERIOR FABRICS CURTAINS CARPETS WALLPAPER	TYROLIT	LIGHT ARTS
UNICON® ELECTRIC WIRE & CABLE	SCHLAGE WORLD FAMOUS LOCKS	Durable® WIRE PRODUCTS	VAZPAVE CONCRETE PAVERS
KUYSEN	asian home	STONE APPLICATIONS TERESA MARBLE	STANLEY MAKE SOMETHING GREAT™
ITALICA GRANITE & MARBLES	PowerMax	BT BESTANK	ROBLES HERITAGE High Quality Indoor/Outdor Lighting Fixtures.
Pateco™ QUALITY DOORS and WOOD PRODUCTS	Tileron Polycarbonate Hollow Profile Sheet	MIRAGE GLASS & ALUMINUM	Valley Wood Products Architectural Ornaments
ELDORADO STONE®	DeltaWood PRODUCTS	ISABEL'S BEST™	LIGHT OPTIONS
SHOWCASE CARPET	TWINLite® Twinwall Polycarbonate Sheet; Laserlite Plus Premium Quality Corrugated Vinyl Roofing Sheet	INTEROCEAN	LIGHTS ON MARKETING
HYGICARE® IMASU® The Ventilating Fan Specialist	RFI RIVIERA FILIPINA The Roof Tile Experts	TAILEE®	TOTO A WORLD LEADER IN BATHROOM FIXTURES
contempo DESIGNS	SGO® STAINGLASS OVERLAY	SWIRE SHELVINGS	TAROG

MC HOME DEPOT Makati • Ortigas • Fort Bonifacio

MC HOME DEPOT Makati • Ortigas • Fort Bonifacio

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Designed for your Quality of Living

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VULCAKOTE
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GLU
FOR CERAMIC TILE
INDUSTRIAL GLUE

VECTOR

CMT
Suspended Ceiling System

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Waterproof
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paper

MC HOME DEPOT Makati • Ortigas • Fort Bonifacio